

# ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## *Proclamation*

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### ARLINGTON CERT DAY

**WHEREAS**, the events of September 11, 2001, made clear that trained volunteers are invaluable in saving lives and reducing injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, since its founding on September 10, 2002, the Arlington Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has honored its mission to help save lives and reduce injuries in Arlington in a major disaster when activated by the County Department of Public Safety Communication and Emergency Management by providing training so that CERT volunteers have the knowledge and skills to save lives and reduce injuries wherever they might be; and

**WHEREAS**, volunteers from the Arlington CERT support Arlington County departments and community partners by educating the population about preparing for emergencies including natural disasters, pandemics, and potential terrorist attacks, thereby reducing fatalities and economic costs to our families and households; and

**WHEREAS**, since May 2, 2020, Arlington CERT-trained and affiliated persons have supported Arlington County Emergency Management and other public safety departments to save lives and reduce injuries in the County's COVID-19 response; and

**WHEREAS**, given that members of the Arlington Community are likely to be at the scene of an incident prior to the arrival of first responders, and those few minutes can mean the difference between life and death for many people, volunteers with the knowledge, skill, and willingness to intervene, are the first link in increasing the odds of survival; and

**WHEREAS**, on Arlington CERT Day, we celebrate the impact of CERT volunteers and encourage Arlingtonians to volunteer to make a difference in the community before, during and after emergencies;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Katie Cristol, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim the 20th anniversary September 10, 2022, as

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in Arlington County to promote and celebrate volunteerism and its profound community impact.



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Katie Cristol  
Chair