

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, in 2020, the United States commemorated the centennial of the 19th amendment, which codified the right to vote for women in the Constitution, and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, which protected the right to vote for Black women; and saw a record number of women voting and pursuing elected office at all levels; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Virginia achieved a historic milestone in our nation's quest to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) by becoming the 38th state to ratify the ERA; and

WHEREAS, our nation made history in 2021 by inaugurating Kamala Harris, the first female, the first Black, and the first South Asian vice president, and celebrated the announcement of Stacey Abrams' nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in increasing Black voter turnout in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, despite this progress, women still encounter the glass ceiling and strive for equal pay for equal work; violence against all women continues to plague our families and communities; and the accomplishments of American women have been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the arts, in sports, in entertainment, in literature, and in the study of American history; and

WHEREAS, Arlington is proud of the many accomplishments and leadership roles local women of every class and ethnic background have assumed, making Arlington an inclusive and first-rate County contributing to the strength of our Commonwealth, our nation and the global community; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 and 2021 National Women's History Month theme, "Valiant Women of the Vote", honors women from the original suffrage movement as well as 20th and 21st century women including women of color who have played critical roles by continuing the struggle to ensure voting rights for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matt de Ferranti, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **March 2021** as

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

in Arlington County and encourage all residents to join in honoring our history and celebrating the contributions of women.



Matt de Ferranti
Chair