



PROCLAMATION

INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind, and the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe and encourages a growing interest in science and nature, especially among young people; and

WHEREAS, the greatest number of Dark Sky Parks east of the Mississippi are located in Virginia, and local parks are home to dozens of species that rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's population, including many people in Virginia, lives under a dome of light pollution — excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness — and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts to the ecology and human health of all communities, and Virginia's environmental goals for years have included the reduction of light pollution; and

WHEREAS, DarkSky International is an educational resource for the public to encourage the protection and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting with the help of Virginia residents;

NOW THEREFORE, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, does hereby proclaim **April 21 through April 28, 2025**, as **INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK** in Arlington County and urge all residents to take a moment to ponder our role in protecting this valuable resource and our connection to our environment now and for future generations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Takis Karantonis", with a horizontal line underneath.

Takis Karantonis
Chair

