



PROCLAMATION

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, Women's History Month (Public Law 100-9) acknowledges the achievements and challenges of women who have and continue to help build and shape our nation; and

WHEREAS, we honor the role women have played in building our nation, which in 2026 celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding.; and

WHEREAS, Abigail Adams, in a letter to her husband John Adams, in March 1776, wrote, "Remember the Ladies," a plea for greater legal protections and equality for women; and

WHEREAS, stories of women like Selina Norris Gray, an enslaved woman at Arlington House, enrich our community. When the Lee family fled in 1861, Gray prevailed upon General McDowell to move the Washington family heirlooms to the US Patent Office for safekeeping. Freed in 1862, she and her family later purchased 10 acres in Green Valley, where she lived until her death in 1907. Selina Gray Square at 1201 South Ross Street is named in her honors; and

WHEREAS, American women have served our country in the military with bravery and distinction and will be remembered for their sacrifices during this 25th anniversary year of the September 11 attack on the Pentagon; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County leadership and government is committed to creating a gender equal world, free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination, where people live openly and authentically without fear, and where difference is valued and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, to those who seek to divide us we recall the words of Dolores Huerta, founder of the United Farm Workers whose labor nourishes all of us, "We can't let people drive wedges between us... because there's only one human race."

NOW THEREFORE, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, does hereby proclaim **MARCH 2026**, as **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH** in Arlington County and encourage all residents to join in honoring our history and celebrating the contributions of all who identify as women.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew de Ferranti".

Matt de Ferranti
Chair, Arlington County Board