



PROCLAMATION

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HONORING CAPTAIN SEAN BAILEY, US NAVY, COMMANDING OFFICER, USS ARLINGTON (LPD-24)

WHEREAS, Captain Sean Bailey assumed command of this County's namesake ship, the USS Arlington (LPD-24), on June 5, 2015, and will be relieved as the Commanding Officer on September 26th, 2016, and after concluding a highly successful tour of duty as the Commanding Officer of Arlington County's namesake Navy ship; and

WHEREAS, in four short months after assuming command, Captain Bailey and his crew successfully completed numerous pre-deployment, training and qualifications necessary to carry out our Navy's maritime missions around the globe by projecting power, protecting sea lines of communications and ensuring freedom of the seas; and

WHEREAS, under Captain Bailey's command, the USS Arlington steamed more than 36,000 miles across the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, Mediterranean and Red Seas, Gulf of Aden, Northern Arabian Sea, and the Persian Gulf and back; and

WHEREAS, the USS Arlington completed complex operations and exercised collaboratively with naval forces of numerous nations considered key allies of the United States, achieving our country's strategic goal of security through coalition-based force multiplication, while participating in operations such as Exercise Trident Juncture 15's amphibious landings by embarked U.S. Marines and Marines of Portugal; and

WHEREAS, under Captain Bailey's leadership, the ship seamlessly transitioned its operations from homeport to the U.S. Sixth Fleet and thence to the U.S. Fifth Fleet and back again, while successfully demonstrating to each Fleet Commander that the ship's motto, "Strength, Honor, and Fortitude," are not only its creed, but have been validated through deeds and achievements; and

WHEREAS, this fine ship, under Captain Bailey's command and operated by his superlative crew of officers, men and women, carrying the finest Marines of any country, carried the name of our beloved County around the world with professionalism and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Captain Bailey has sought to strengthen the bonds that exist between this Tribute Ship, the Arlington community, and Arlington County's first responders who went to aid the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, during his time as Commanding Officer, Captain Bailey exemplified the motto of the USS Arlington: "Strength, Honor and Fortitude";

NOW, THEREFORE I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby express our highest commendation to you, Captain Bailey, for a job exceedingly well done, and our unending gratitude to your crew and their families for their service and sacrifices on the Nation's behalf. We wish you every success in your continuing service to our nation in the United States Navy. In the fine tradition of sailors, and now Arlington County, we wish you "*fair winds and following seas.*"

Libby Garvey
Chair