



PROCLAMATION

COLUMBIA GARDENS CEMETERY 100TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, Columbia Gardens Cemetery was first conceived in 1914 by founders Colonel Robert Dye, former superintendent of the Arlington National Cemetery, Julius Broh and Harry Randolph Thomas, with the stated intent to “make a place that will be attractive as a park and a credit to the County;” and

WHEREAS, Columbia Gardens Cemetery officially opened in 1917 with thirty-eight adjoining acres and a landscape design that included winding roads and many natural features; and

WHEREAS, Columbia Gardens Cemetery has been under the care and stewardship of the Thomas family for four generations, including its current president Daun Thomas Frankland, great-granddaughter of the founder, and continues its tradition as a family-owned and operated cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Columbia Gardens Cemetery welcomes all faiths, all nationalities, all people; and

WHEREAS, Columbia Gardens Cemetery has been dedicated, throughout its history, to the planting, preservation and stewardship of trees and woody plants on its property, which is consistent with the environmental goals for Arlington County; and

WHEREAS, Columbia Gardens Cemetery is a valued member of the community, and especially Arlington’s Ashton Heights Historic District, offering beautiful walking paths and a soothing environment for reflection, and hosting community events for families, neighbors and friends;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jay Fisetto, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim October 21, 2017 as the date of

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in Arlington, and request all citizens to join together to commend the Thomas Family and their staff for their efforts over four generations, and wish them every success for the next 100 years.

Jay Fisetto, Chair