

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly is an iconic North American species whose multigenerational migration and metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, Both the western and eastern monarch populations have seen significant declines with less than one percent of the western monarch population remaining, while the eastern population has fallen by as much as ninety percent; and

WHEREAS, The City of Salem, Virginia recognizes that human health ultimately depends on well-functioning ecosystems and that biodiverse regions can better support food production, healthy soil and air quality and can foster healthy connections between humans and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Cities, towns and counties have a critical role to play to help save the monarch butterfly, and the City of Salem, Virginia is striving to become a leader; and

WHEREAS, On March 23, 2022, I Renée Ferris Turk, signed the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge and have officially committed to taking meaningful action to protect the monarch butterfly; and

WHEREAS, Every resident of The City of Salem can make a difference for the monarch by planting native milkweed and nectar plants to provide habitat for the monarch and pollinators in locations where people live, work, learn, play and worship; and

WHEREAS, The City of Salem, Virginia, is actively working to maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at a prominent community location, plant pollinator-friendly native nectar plants in medians, and plant nectar-providing plants in the Children's Garden at the library; and

WHEREAS, City Horticulturist, Jeff Ceaser, has signed the Salem Municipal Golf Course up as a participant in "Monarchs in the Rough," a a cooperation program between the USGA, the Audubon Society, & the Environ. Defense Fund to establish or re-establish milkweed species at participating courses; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I RENÉE FERRIS TURK, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SALEM, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and on behalf of Salem City Council and all our citizens do hereby proclaim March 24, 2022 as:

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

in The City of Salem, Virginia and encourage all residents to participate in community activities that support and celebrate monarch conservation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Salem to be affixed this the twenty-fourth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty and two of the Independence of the United States the two hundred and forty-sixth.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Renée Ferris Turk".

Mayor of the City of Salem, Virginia

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "H. Robert Light".

H. Robert Light
Clerk of Council
City of Salem, Virginia