

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 April 23, 2026, 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, has planted annual additions of numerous new trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals throughout the City, offering additional resources for pollinators; and

WHEREAS, City Horticulturist, Benjamin Nolen, continues the participation of the Salem Municipal Golf Course in "Monarchs in the Rough," a cooperation program between the USGA, the Audubon Society, & the Environmental Defense Fund to establish or re-establish milkweed species at participating courses. In addition to this, he is currently overseeding into naturalized areas at the municipal golf course and greenways while working on establishing some new native prairie plantings at other prominent locations in the City; 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 April 23, 2026, 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-third day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty and six of the Independence of the United States the two hundred and fiftieth.



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

Mayor of the City of Salem, Virginia

COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Saunders
H. Hunter Holliday
Randy Foley
Anne Marie Green
Renée Ferris Turk

ATTEST:

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

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