



County of Fairfax, Virginia

Supervisor Pat Herrity

Board Matter

October 8th, 2024

Designate November 21st as Church Heritage Recognition Day

Background: Our community has a diverse range of religious organizations that serve the needs of our residents. The Christian church tradition and the many churches of Fairfax County which partake in that tradition play a vital role in shaping the cultural, social, and moral landscape of the communities within Fairfax County, fostering the development of the arts, education, and sciences. Local churches have a rich and prominent history connected to key figures in our democracy including George Washington and George Mason.

Inherent in the Christian church tradition is the belief that each human being holds inherent value and dignity. Through dedication to maintaining that dignity, the many churches of Fairfax County have established and maintained countless schools, hospitals, outreach to orphaned youth, and relief, demonstrating Christ's teachings of compassion and love towards the needy and suffering. In times of conflict and division, the churches which uphold the Christian tradition are instrumental in promoting peace, justice, and reconciliation throughout the history of Fairfax County.

The historical church tradition has had a strong role in strengthening the family unit as a foundational institution of society, advocating for healthy marriages, and the importance of parenting.

Motion: Therefore, I move without objection that the Board designate November 21, 2024 as Fairfax County Church Heritage Recognition Day, acknowledging its profound impact on the welfare of families in Fairfax County and recognizing its respect for the Christian Church in its vision to advocate for communities where all individuals and families are supported and empowered to thrive. Fairfax County is proud of its strong history and commitment to religious diversity, its many faiths and their support to our communities through interfaith collaboration.