



County Commissioners of Charles County

PROCLAMATION 2023-14

National Deaf History Month

Whereas, National Deaf History Month is recognized and celebrated each year from March 13th to April 15th to acknowledge the accomplishments of people who are deaf and hard of hearing; and

Whereas, on April 15, 1817, the first public school, the American School for the deaf was opened, and on April 8, 1864, Gallaudet University, the world's foremost institution dedicated to the advanced education of the deaf and hard of hearing, was founded; and

Whereas, the first annual and nationwide observance of National Deaf History month was held in 1997 and promoted by the National Association of the Deaf and American Library Association; and

Whereas, approximately 15% of American adults report some trouble hearing and about 13% of people in the United States aged 12 and older has hearing loss in both ears; and

Whereas, Charles County promotes the acceptance and inclusion of all residents with unique abilities; and

Whereas, the Charles County community benefits from awareness efforts to educate residents about deafness, loss of hearing, and its effects. We encourage acceptance, inclusion, and reasonable accommodations for those who identify as deaf or hard of hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim March 13th - April 15th 2023 as **National Deaf History Month** in Charles County and call upon residents to promote, recognize, support, and appreciate the contribution provided by individuals who are deaf or experiencing hearing loss.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*

Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*
District 4

Gilbert O. Bowling, III
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Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
District 2

Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.
District 3



Attest:

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners