

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail is a non-profit citizens organization dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and promotion of a 45-mile multi-use rail-trail that is owned and operated by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA), which also runs through the City of Falls Church; and

WHEREAS, long-time city resident, local businessman, and community activist Walter L. Mess played an instrumental role in founding the NVRPA; serving on its Board of Directors for 46 years, and as its second Chairman, before stepping down at his 90th birthday; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s Mr. Mess worked with fellow Northern Virginians to generate community and legislative support, and to raise funds to form the NVRPA -- a regional agency dedicated to planning, developing and operating a system of regional parks -- with Arlington County, Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church as founding jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mess was recognized for developing a national model when presented with the National Recreation and Park Association's 2004 National Voluntary Service Award, and he remains as the Chairman Emeritus of the NVRPA; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the W&OD Trail (Friends) have held a charity 5K run in the City of Falls Church along the Trail for the past 5 years; and

WHEREAS, this is the first year the Friends have honored anyone by naming the race because "without Walter Mess there would be no trail."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NADER BAROUKH, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, do hereby proclaim Sunday, March 27, 2011 as

WALTER L. MESS DAY

in the City of Falls Church and urge residents and runners alike to participate in the 5K event to support and honor Mr. Mess for his contributions towards providing open space, wildlife habitats, and outdoor recreation for the thousands of regional park users each year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Falls Church, Virginia to be affixed this 14th day of March 2011.

Nader Baroukh, Mayor