

WHEREAS, Wiley F. Mitchell, Jr., the City of Alexandria's revered Vice Mayor and pipe puffing pontificator on a myriad of municipal mis-happenings, misconceptions and mistakes is relinquishing his position with this august, dignified and downright damned impressive City Council to pursue lesser glories in the Virginia State Senate; and

WHEREAS, he is the personification of Periclean principles and the physical manifestation of the Virginia State Republican Party's motto "You've come a long way baby"; and

WHEREAS, he has received countless honors and awards from almost every segment of this community, some of which include the following:

1. The Northeast Civic Association's Neighborhood Stability Award for his complete and unqualified support of the twin span Route 1 bridge;
2. The Cameron Valley United Annual Save the Children Award for his efforts to locate the Cameron Valley mini-pool in the middle of the Duke Street and Yale Drive intersection;
3. The Downtown Merchants' Award for putting two more empty buses on King Street;
4. The O'Leary Clan Memorial Plaque for his unending attempts to redefine the term "family";
5. The Alexandria Historical Commission's Who Cares Award for his fight to preserve the Alexandria historical postmark;
6. The Del Ray Civic Association's Annual Defend the Down-trodden Award for his valiant defense of a poor immigrant trying to scratch out a meager existence pumping gas at an out-of-the-way, obscure Commonwealth Avenue location;
7. The Southwest Quadrant Civic Association's You Brought Us Together Award for his continuous support of alternate routes A thru P of the Eisenhower Avenue Connector;
8. The Plastic Pipe Association of Northern Virginia's You Saved Our Industry Award for his "hell no" stands on all requests for undergrounding waivers; and
9. The City Council's Annual Two in the Morning Award for his endless dissertations on the value of brevity at Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, METRO has offered to express its appreciation to Vice Mayor Mitchell for his constant support, ridership and prompt payment of all bus operating deficit bills by offering him an inside-of-the-bus view of their next flammable materials test; and

WHEREAS, the United States Navy was dumbfounded by Vice Mayor Mitchell's ability to sink an entire destroyer with nothing more than a handful of five syllable words and a torrid blast of hot air; and

WHEREAS, his untiring efforts to settle the waterfront title issue have left us with a legacy of unpassed bills before Congress, untried court cases, a series of conflicting high water lines that could only make a lawyer happy, a vacant lot which is euphemistically called a park and a city employees' parking lot; and

WHEREAS, these are but a few of hour highly respected Vice Mayor's accomplishments, the full listing of which would outweigh the collected drafts of the City's Comprehensive Plan (and would also be equally as significant),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, his fellow and female colleagues on the City Council, express our profound appreciation for his numerous contributions to our ever-dignified proceedings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council hereby declares its intent to dedicate the Gaillard Street cul-de-sac as Wiley F. Mitchell Park and that this modest piece of City real estate be designed in such a way to include two ball fields and six tennis courts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council will send to Senator Mitchell in Richmond its full support and all of the leftover chicken from our work sessions which we know he loves so well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that his pipe and glasses be placed in the City Hall Lobby display case to rest forever among other historical artifacts retrieved from Alexandria's privies; and

BE IT FURTHER, AND FINALLY, RESOLVED that we know him to be an honorable man who will take this resolution in the proper spirit and who will hopefully not lead a movement in the next State legislative session to have our Charter revoked as a means of getting even.

Adopted January 13, 1976

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Helen Holleman  
Clerk of the City of Alexandria, Virginia