

PROCLAMATION

National Travel & Tourism Week

May 4-12

2013

WHEREAS travel is among the largest private-sector employers in the United States, supporting 14.4 million jobs in 2011, including 7.5 million directly in the travel industry and 6.9 million in other industries;

WHEREAS international travel to the United States is the nation's largest single export industry – greater than the export of business services, machinery, computer and electronic products, motor vehicles and agriculture. In 2011, travel generated \$152.4 in exports, creating \$42 billion in balance of travel trade surplus for the U.S.;

WHEREAS travelers' spending directly generated tax revenues of \$124 billion for federal, state and local governments, funds used to support essential services and programs;

WHEREAS, the tourism industry contributes substantially to the Leesburg community's cultural and social well being by way of the attractions, special events, arts, shopping and dining opportunities; and

WHEREAS leisure travel, which accounts for more than three-quarters of all trips taken in the United States, spurs countless benefits to travelers' creativity, cultural awareness, education, happiness, productivity, relationships and wellness;

WHEREAS, each Leesburg household receives more than \$146.51 annually in combined Town and County tax relief as a result of visitor spending; and

WHEREAS, 37 group bookings were made in 2012 which alone generated more than \$2,397,930 in direct visitor spending to the Town of Leesburg; and

WHEREAS travel is a catalyst that moves the national economy forward;

PROCLAIMED this 23rd day of April, 2013.

Kristen C. Umstattd, Mayor
Town of Leesburg

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

PROCLAMATION

Walking for Water Day May 11, 2013

WHEREAS, people in Burkina Faso do not have water; and

WHEREAS, starting at the age of 3, children, teenagers, and adults walk 4-6 hours a day to get fresh water; and

WHEREAS, the difficulty of this situation is not just about water; and

WHEREAS, people have many afflictions as a result of drinking from mud puddles laden with toxins and bacteria; and

WHEREAS, the bigger problem is there is no time for education since they are always walking to get fresh water; and

WHEREAS, one well can change the lives of 1000 people forever, affording them health and the time to be educated and build businesses; and

WHEREAS, May 11th is the 10th Anniversary of Walking for Water here in Leesburg, an event started in 2004 by Kristen Karinshak, a student of Heritage High School; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Kristen's initial efforts, for the past 10 years people of all ages come from all over the world, including students from Leesburg's Heritage, Stone Bridge, and Tuscarora High Schools; Harper Park, Frances Hazel Reid, and Tolbert Elementary Schools to raise money to dig wells for people in Burkina Faso; and

WHEREAS, students each year get involved to plan and run this grass roots, 800 people strong 5K/10K Festival as well as raising money from private citizens and local businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia that May 11th as Walking for Water Day in Leesburg in support and honor of the hard work and initiative for the past 10 years by people of all ages from all over the world, including students from Leesburg's Heritage, Stone Bridge, and Tuscarora High Schools; Harper Park, Frances Hazel Reid, and Tolbert Elementary Schools to raise money to dig wells for people in Burkina Faso.

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