



County Commissioners of Charles County

PROCLAMATION 2026-17

National Deaf History Month

WHEREAS, National Deaf History Month is recognized and celebrated each year 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, 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, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing contribute meaningfully to all aspects of society, including education, business, public service, arts, and community leadership; and

WHEREAS, promoting awareness and understanding of Deaf culture and the use of communication methods such as American Sign Language (ASL) fosters inclusion, accessibility, and equal opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, Charles County is committed to ensuring accessibility and supporting inclusive practices that empower individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to fully participate in community life.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim April 2026, as **National Deaf History Month** in Charles County and encourage all residents to recognize the achievements of the Deaf community and to support efforts that promote inclusion, accessibility, and equal opportunity for all.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Attest:

John Adelodun, Assistant Clerk to the Commissioners