

TOWN OF FAIRFAX PROCLAMATION

In Memory of Phyllis Gould

October 7, 1921 – July 20, 2021



WHEREAS, Phyllis Gould lived for several decades at Bennett House in the Town of Fairfax; and

WHEREAS, Phyllis recently passed away, just a few months shy of her 100th birthday; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, the U.S. government launched the “Rosie the Riveter” campaign to encourage women to enter the workforce to support the war efforts; and

WHEREAS, from 1942 - 1945, Phyllis Gould welded warships in Richmond, one of the millions of Rosies who helped our Country win World War II; and

WHEREAS, Phyllis was married twice and had five children, and is survived by her three sisters, three of her children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Phyllis moved to Bolinas in 1966 and hand-built a 160-square foot house, without permits, electricity or sewage; she later settled in Fairfax; and

WHEREAS, after the war, the Rosies were largely forgotten – Phyllis made it her life’s mission to fix that, lobbying political leaders from the White House on down, keeping up her fight for their recognition until the end; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, after her multi-year letter writing campaign, Phyllis and four of her Rosie colleagues, including her sister Marian Sousa of El Sobrante, traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with President Obama and then-Vice President Biden; and

WHEREAS, due to her lobbying, Congress established March 21, 2017 as Rosie the Riveter Day, yet for Phyllis it was never enough, she continued to work for a national yearly holiday; and

WHEREAS, Representative Jackie Speier, at Phyllis’s and her fellow Rosie May Krier’s urging, led the effort to get a Congressional Gold Medal authorized for the Rosie’s in December – to be awarded next year; and

WHEREAS, up until days before her death, she was still advocating for a Rosie statute at the Washington Mall, plaques at veterans’ memorials and was helping design the Gold Medal; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Phyllis was the Grand Marshall of the Fairfax Festival Parade; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Fairfax Town Council adopted a Proclamation and a plaque (hanging in the Women’s Club) in honor of the Rosies; and

AGENDA ITEM #3

WHEREAS, our local hero, Phyllis Gould, will be remembered for her courage, perseverance, hard work and forging a pathway for women and girls – may her story continue, inspiring us to strive for even higher achievements; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council fondly bids adieu to Phyllis Gould, our “Rosie of Fairfax” – our Town is a better place because Phyllis chose to live here and share her wisdom and life experiences with us;

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax, that in memory of Phyllis Gould and her many contributions to the Country and the Legacy of the Rosies, October 20, 2021 is **Phyllis Gould Day** in the Town of Fairfax.

Signed and dated this 20th day of October 2021.

Bruce Ackerman, Mayor of Fairfax

