

TOWN OF CHESTERTOWN

PROCLAMATION

to Honor Barrie and Elizabeth Montague Celebrating 60 Years of Marital Bliss November 30, 2023

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Regan of Wallingford, Connecticut and F. Barrie Montague of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, were married at St. Stephen Martyr Church in Washington, D.C. on November 30, 1963, surrounded by friends, loved ones and family. They honeymooned at the Homestead in Hot Springs, VA; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. F. Barrie Montague made their new home in Fairfax, VA, and soon lost all their possessions in a fire, causing an immediate change in living arrangements, and ironically, ultimately moving to Montague Farm (no relation). They soon spent a month visiting Europe, including Great Britain and later Canada. A former stockbroker, who served in the U.S. Army and stationed in Japan, Mr. Montague, worked for the Prevention of Blindness Society in Washington, D.C., while Mrs. Montague worked for the federal government and had previously lived and worked abroad in Munich, Germany, where she acquired a love of the German language, European culture and travelling abroad; and

WHEREAS, their family soon expanded, with the birth of their daughter, C. Reed, and then a dog, Pip, followed three years later by their son, J. Carter, while living on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., which found the city caught up in the riots in the aftermath of the assassination of Martin Luther King. While living in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Montague volunteered as a German translator. They regularly attended outdoor concerts at the U.S. Capitol, ate ice cream on the U.S. Supreme Court steps and walked to and from Smithsonian museums; and

WHEREAS, the family then moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, where the family swam at the beach almost every weekend! Mr. Montague earned an M.A. in public health from the University of Hawaii and served on various committees, and was elected as a student representative and aided in the development of a health insurance plan for graduate students there; and

WHEREAS, the family then made their home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where Mr. Montague joined the newly launched National Institute for Alcohol, Abuse and Alcoholism, an institute of the federal government, where he served as a health planner and was instrumental in the development of programs to address alcohol treatment in hospitals across the country and abroad. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Gaithersburg, (later known as North Potomac), Maryland, where they raised their children with their much-loved Shetland sheepdog, Perky. They regularly spent time with family in New England and elsewhere. They would often take family walks along the C&O Canal, take mystery rides to surprise destinations, regularly attended concerts and cultural events throughout the greater Washington area and summered annually in Cape Cod. Mr. Montague also started a side business selling antique replica cars, which allowed him to use his much-loved British Racing Green 1937 Jaguar SS100 in a variety of venues, including in a series of events at White Flint Mall in North Bethesda, Maryland, culminating in a mall-wide fashion show that made the local news; and

WHEREAS, during this period, they were able to indulge their love of travel together, visiting a wide range of countries, including Spain. The family later took a trip together to the former Yugoslavia, where their daughter was studying and visited Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Austria. They skied in Italy and attended local events, lost an umbrella in Venice's Grand Canal, drove across the Alps in a blizzard, munched on Mozart balls in Salzburg and stayed out all night celebrating New Year's Eve. In Ljubljana, they accidentally drove onto a walkway in a city park during a snowstorm in the middle of the night, which led to their being questioned by the police. They ultimately travelled back to Europe and Asia multiple times, and Mr. Montague had the pleasure of visiting South America; and

WHEREAS, during this period Mrs. Montague worked a variety of jobs in the legal field, including at Martin Marietta, a large aerospace company. After becoming empty nesters, she returned to school, earning a M.A. in Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and taught adult learners in high school and later in college, where she served as a professor, enabling her to combine her love of meeting new people, learning, foreign cultures and international people; and

WHEREAS, upon Mr. Montague's retirement, the couple moved to Chestertown, Maryland, where they have resided since 1995. Falling in love with small town living, they became active members of the community, joining at least 13 clubs and organizations at one count, including the croquet club, the German and French Clubs, the Chester River Country Club and the Rock Hall Yacht Club. Mr. Montague became a board member of the Rock Hall Yacht Club and served as co-Admiral. He also served on the Board of the Mainstay, where he was an active member and led several initiatives, ultimately supporting the expansion of musical concerts in the area. He also played an active role in the celebration of Chestertown's 300th anniversary. In addition, with expertise in antiques, he started his own antiques business, importing a range of antique Asian and Burmese furniture and décor; and

WHEREAS, both their children were married – Reed married a Croatian national and Carter married the former Eileen Riley of Wellesley, Massachusetts. The Montagues have been blessed with four grandchildren, including a grown grandson, Jonathan Gligorovic of Chevy Chase, Maryland, a diplomat at the State Department and three school-age granddaughters, Riley, Regan and Ruari Montague of Wellesley, Massachusetts, who each attend the nearby Newton Country Day School in Newton, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, in terms of for better and worse, they have usually participated in multiple activities together, even ending up in a joint accident together in 2015. Fortunately, both managed to recover and return to healthy living, where they continue to remain active members of the Chestertown Community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Foster, Mayor of the Town of Chestertown, Maryland, wish to congratulate Barrie and Elizabeth Montague on reaching this rare and special milestone as they have loved, supported, and cherished one another these past 60 years. We honor and recognize the many contributions they have made both as a couple and individually, professionally, personally, family-wise and throughout their community to better improve the lives of their family and friends and their communities. Together they have enriched the fabric of Chestertown and the surrounding areas with their love, warmth and vibrancy to all with whom they come in contact. May they have many more years of wedded happiness together!

David Foster, Mayor
Chestertown, Maryland

November 20, 2023