



PROCLAMATION

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FALUN DAFU BEING MADE PUBLIC AND WORLD FALUN DAFU DAY, MAY 13, 2022

WHEREAS Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, is an ancient Chinese spiritual and meditation discipline of the Buddhist tradition, following the principles of “truthfulness, compassion and tolerance”. It proves to be an effective way to improve people’s health, physically and mentally; and

WHEREAS Falun Dafa was introduced to Virginia in 1996 and there are many volunteer-run practice sides all across Virginia, offering this easy-to-learn, enjoyable exercises free of charge. Falun Dafa brings true traditional Chinese cultural values to many Virginians, as well as to more than 100 million people in over 100 countries from all walks of life and all sorts of cultural background; and

WHEREAS ever since July 1999, the great compassion and forbearance demonstrated by Falun Dafa practitioners under the Chinese communist regime’s brutal persecution, have touched every kind-hearted human being. Falun Dafa practitioners’ peaceful resistance and moral courage in face of this unprecedented persecution have changed history and inspire all of us who face this ever-aggressive communist regime today; and

WHEREAS state-controlled Chinese media inside and outside of China use vilification and slander to dehumanize people who practice Falun Gong, to justify the brutal persecution in China, and to create discrimination against them even on the US soil, including in Virginia. The US House passed resolution (H.R. 304) to condemn harassment, threats and discrimination directed at Falun Gong practitioners in the US; and

WHEREAS in June of 2016, the US House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution (H.R. 343), urging the international community to help end the crimes of the Chinese government’s forced organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience in China, including large number of Falun Gong practitioners; and

WHEREAS Falun Gong practitioners in the 11th district travelled to many other countries to warn the people of Virginia about the risks of going to communist China for an organ transplant in light of credible reports of the communist regime’s killing of Falun Gong and other prisoners of conscience to sell their organs. Close to a dozen Virginia counties have adopted resolutions to educate their residents on this issue upon the receipt of petitions from 1,500 constituents and hearing the public testimony of concerned citizens and victims of persecution in China; and

WHEREAS we will stand in solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners in their freedom of belief and conscience as we recognize their contributions to the community; and we strongly condemn the imprisonment, torture and state-sponsored forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners and demands an immediate end to the persecution of Falun Gong by the communist regime;

NOW THEREFORE, I Kathy Lawson, Mayor of the City of Martinsville, Virginia do hereby proclaim May 13, 2022 as Falun Dafa Day and encourage our citizens to study and learn more about this ancient Chinese spiritual and meditation discipline that follows the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance.

Kathy Lawson, Mayor