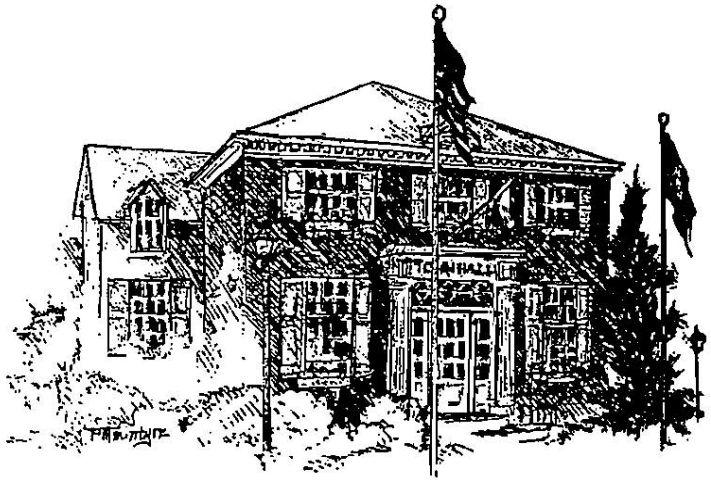

TOWN OF HERNDON, VIRGINIA
PROCLAMATION
DOLLY PARTON DAY
SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

On August 25, 2026, the world lost **Dolly Parton**, an American icon who enriched our lives for more than six decades as a singer, songwriter, actress, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. Beyond her extraordinary artistic achievements, Dolly was admired for her authenticity, humor, generosity, and belief that success carries with it a responsibility to lift others. Throughout her life, she championed literacy, education, health care, disaster relief, and economic opportunity, demonstrating the lasting impact that kindness and service can have on a community.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly founded the **Imagination Library** in 1995 to provide free, age-appropriate books to young children regardless of family income. What began in her East Tennessee hometown grew into an international literacy movement that has gifted more than 300 million books and inspired generations of children to dream, learn, and discover.

That legacy lives right here in Herndon through the **Rotary Club of Herndon-Reston**, whose support of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, together with local donors, volunteers, and community partners, has provided more than 285,000 free books to children in our community. Their work reflects values at the heart of Herndon: service to one another, opportunity for every child, celebrating what makes each of us unique, and creating a community where everyone knows they belong.

From the unmistakable opening notes of ***9 to 5***, to the millions of books placed into the hands of children, Dolly used her talents to bring people joy and to leave the world better than she found it. Her life reminds us that lasting impact often begins with a simple act of caring for someone else.

Therefore, the Mayor of the Town of Herndon, together with the Herndon Town Council, hereby proclaims **September 25, 2026, or 9-2-5, as DOLLY PARTON DAY** in the **Town of Herndon**, a fitting tribute to ***9 to 5***, and encourages our community to honor Dolly's extraordinary contributions to music, culture, philanthropy, and literacy and, in her spirit, to **Dream More, Learn More, Care More, and Be More.**