

Mecklenburg County

North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Rotary has a long history of advocacy for peace and peace-related activities, and In 1914, before the onset of World War I, Rotarians from the Hamilton, Ontario Club in Canada, proposed before the 1914 Rotary Convention that the International Association of Rotary (now Rotary International) "lend its influence to the maintenance of peace among the nations of the world", and delegates at the convention, which took place just weeks before Europe became engulfed in war, agreed; and

WHEREAS, Rotary was present at the inception of the United Nations in 1945 and was one of only 42 organizations invited to serve as consultants to the U.S. delegation to the UN charter conference in San Francisco, California, USA, and throughout that process, Rotary members served as delegates, advisers, and consultants, guiding agendas, drafting resolutions, and helping resolve disputes between delegates; and

WHEREAS, today, Rotary holds the highest consultative status offered to a nongovernmental organization by the UN Economic and Social Council, which oversees many specialized UN agencies; and

WHEREAS, Rotary International launched its Peace Centers program in 1999 to train new generations of peacebuilders, and the inaugural class of Rotary Peace Fellows began their studies in 2002, with one of those centers here in NC, operated by Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, Peace Fellows are responsible for initiating peace projects around the world and an alumnus of the program here in Charlotte, initiated an organization of high school students called NewGen Peacebuilders, focusing on building peace with a variety of students in our communities, including within Mecklenburg County; and

WHEREAS, during COVID, NewGen Peacebuilders established a program called "Project Unity", aimed at fostering a sense of belonging, increasing English language skills, and improving acculturation, and building unity with children of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, In our District, especially within Mecklenburg County, Rotarians have been involved in many initiatives aimed at building peace, including during COVID, volunteering regularly at Second Harvest Food Bank, sorting food for distribution at the Convention Center during that time and also at NC MedAssist, packaging medications for families in Mecklenburg County and other locations around North Carolina, organized a Unity Picnic for more than 400 Afghan allies from Mecklenburg County during 2022 which included food, dance and games; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in recognition of Rotary's longstanding commitment to peace and their record of involvement in peace-centered activities in North Carolina and Mecklenburg County, and in recognition of the eleven Rotary Clubs present in Mecklenburg County, including Charlotte, Cornelius, and Huntersville, February 23, 2024, has been proclaimed as

"WORLD UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE DAY"

In Mecklenburg County.

This 20th Day of February 2024


George Dunlap, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

