

PROCLAMATION



MARCH 4, 2025

RECOGNIZING MARCH AS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS MONTH

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, often debilitating, disease of the central nervous system that afflicts nearly one million people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the disease is typically diagnosed while people are young—in their twenties, thirties, and forties—in the prime of their lives and is three times more common in women than men; and

WHEREAS, symptoms can start as tingling, numbness in the limbs or nerves, loss of mobility, coordination and vision and even progress to paralysis; and

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis is not only a burden on a person's health but also a financial burden to the person and their family, as the disease averages annual medical expenses of \$65,612 per person and a nationwide total economic burden of \$85.4 billion as released in a 2019 study; and

WHEREAS, as a neurological disability, persons with multiple sclerosis may have limited working capacity or employment opportunities, which may reduce earnings at an average annual loss of \$18,542 per person with multiple sclerosis, as well as potentially causing family members to leave employment to become caregivers with an average annual loss of an additional \$4,333; and

WHEREAS, with an average of 200 persons diagnosed each week, the exact cause of multiple sclerosis is unknown with no known cure; and

WHEREAS, it is important to have better education and awareness of multiple sclerosis so that persons living with multiple sclerosis can lead productive and satisfying lives for the benefit of themselves, their caregivers, families and the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the Multiple Sclerosis Alliance of Virginia (MSAV) provides programs and services for anyone in Virginia whose life has been affected by multiple sclerosis and has been committed throughout the years to heightening public knowledge and insight about this devastating and often crippling disease by planning several major statewide fundraisers and educational programs in order to raise awareness about the effects of multiple sclerosis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the King George County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes March as Multiple Sclerosis Month and calls upon the residents of King George to join them in educating others on the affects of this disease in an effort to raise awareness of the struggles members of our community face each day living with this disease.

ADOPTED this fourth day of March 2025 by

Chair William Davis, Board of Supervisors