



***Proclamation recognizing Holston Mountain Artisan
in celebration of their Fiftieth Anniversary***

WHEREAS, Holston Mountain Artisans began as the Holston Mountain Arts and Crafts Cooperative in the spring of 1971. The goal was to find talented local craftspeople and artists and help them sell their wares for a reasonable return while educating the public on tradition and value of handwork; and

WHEREAS, approximately 20 craftspeople, eager to make some extra income and have their handwork appreciated, organized, and joined the member-owned cooperative for their first venture: exhibiting and selling their items for one week at the annual Virginia Highlands Crafts Festival, which at that time was called the Flea Market. During this time, they were discovered by Barter Theatre's director, Robert Porterfield, who generously offered them the use of the Cave House in exchange for maintaining the building. The co-op members were thrilled and renovated the beautiful old building, which had been vacant for many years, to use as a shop and place to hold craft demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, the non-profit cooperative has enrollment of 100 residents of Southwest Virginia and Upper East Tennessee. Members helped seed the development of the visual arts at the William King Regional Arts Center before it became a museum, and later at the Arts Depot, where they continue to welcome the public to their studios; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the cooperative moved to its present location at 214 Park Street, where it continues to present the finest in traditional and contemporary crafts and art and offer festivals, demonstrations, and classes to the public, with the mission of preserving the crafts culture and encouraging youth to carry it on; and

WHEREAS, Holston Mountain Artisans is a vibrant community asset, has a positive economic impact, provides cultural and educational benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Derek Webb, Mayor of the Town of Abingdon, recognize the mission of Holston Mountain Artisans and celebrate their Fiftieth Anniversary.

TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

BY: _____

Derek Webb, Mayor
August 2, 2021