

**PROCLAMATION**

- WHEREAS,** the monarch butterfly is an iconic North American species whose multigenerational migration and metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** 20 years ago, more than one billion Eastern monarch butterflies migrated to Mexico, but populations of this iconic species have declined by 90% in the last two decades; and
- WHEREAS,** cities, towns and counties have a critical role to play to help save the monarch butterfly; and
- WHEREAS,** Bella Vista, Arkansas has taken the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge to demonstrate the city's commitment to creating a habitat and educating citizens about how they can make a difference at home; and
- WHEREAS,** Every resident of Bella Vista can make a difference for the monarch by planting native milkweed and nectar plants to provide habitat for the monarch and pollinators in locations where people live, work, learn, play and worship; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I John D. Flynn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Bella Vista, do hereby proclaim February 3, 2023 as: **Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day** in the city of Bella Vista, Arkansas.

**Further,** I officially commit to take meaningful action to protect the monarch. I encourage all residents, city staff and visitors to participate in taking steps to increase the planting of milkweed and nectar plants to preserve and strengthen the monarch butterfly population.

**Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2023**

Mayor

