



# Proclamation

*Whereas:* Mary Reid Barrow has served the community by demonstrating the integral value of nature to the citizens of Virginia Beach in an accessible manner through her writing, photos and day-to-day interactions with the public; and

*Whereas:* Wildlife viewing, a pastime enjoyed by many, finds many unique and rewarding encounters here as Virginia Beach is home to many prime locations for spotting wildlife as part of the statewide Bird and Wildlife Trail system; and

*Whereas:* Mary Reid Barrow has inspired others with her unyielding dedication to all projects and efforts throughout Virginia Beach to protect and preserve all wildlife and their habitats, both aquatic and terrestrial; and

*Whereas:* The success of the Winter Wildlife Festival for the past ten years has greatly benefited from the expertise and enthusiastic support provided by Mary Reid Barrow. Without her this event would not have become what is now, a most iconic and beloved celebration of wildlife and nature; and

*Whereas:* The community has been blessed with the generosity and gentle passion of Mary Reid Barrow as she has fostered relationships with wildlife and nature to the citizens of Virginia Beach and within the Hampton Roads area; and

*Whereas:* By exemplifying the model of stewardship and conservation in the city of Virginia Beach, Mary Reid Barrow has educated and enriched the citizens of this community to participate in more sustainable and eco-conscious practices that aids all wildlife and natural areas.

Now Therefore, I Robert M. Dyer, Mayor of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, do hereby proclaim:

*Mary Reid Barrow*

*The first recipient of the Wildlife Advocate Award*

*In Virginia Beach, henceforth named in her honor and presented to future recipients who embody those same qualities. We call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, business and schools in Virginia Beach to be wildlife advocates in every possible measure so that future generations can appreciate and further protect wildlife and natural spaces.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, to be affixed this Twenty – Fourth Day of January, Two Thousand and Twenty.*

Robert M. “Bobby” Dyer  
Mayor