



# PROCLAMATION

## DEAF AWARENESS MONTH

**WHEREAS**, the Deaf population includes a wide range of individuals, from those who were born profoundly deaf and use American Sign Language (ASL) as a primary means of communication, to those with a degree of hearing loss who use hearing aids or other forms of amplification and communication modes; and,

**WHEREAS**, to the first Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, which was held in September of 1951; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 17% of the Arizona population has a hearing loss; and

**WHEREAS**, over 1.1 million Arizonans are hard of hearing and more than 20,000 people in Arizona are culturally Deaf; and

**WHEREAS**, people who identify as Deaf belong to a cultural and linguistic community with shared language, social norms, rules of behavior, and history; and

**WHEREAS**, all of Arizona is enriched by the diverse and unique heritage, language, and culture of the Deaf community; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to ensure that Arizona's Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals have equal access to the many benefits and opportunities available to hearing individuals to live, work, play, and communicate in Arizona; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of Deaf Awareness Month is to increase public awareness of the issues and the culture of people who are Deaf, and to promote equal access to information and services for Deaf individuals and to educate the public about the misconceptions of being Deaf; it is also an opportunity to learn about the types of educational programs, support services, and resources available to Deaf people as well as to individuals who are DeafBlind or Hard of Hearing

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Alexis Hermosillo, Mayor of the City of El Mirage, in the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim September 2025 as **DEAF AWARENESS MONTH**.

I have hereunto set my hand to this proclamation on the 16th day of September 2025.

---

Alexis A. Hermosillo, Mayor