



**City of Charlottesville
Office of the Mayor**

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To Our Friends in Mecklenburg, Germany,

We send our greetings and our congratulations from across the Atlantic. As you celebrate of the 250th anniversary of the coronation of Princess Charlotte in 2011, Charlottesville nears the celebration of a milestone for our town, the 250th anniversary of the naissance of the City of Charlottesville in 2012. 249 years ago the City of Charlottesville was founded along Three Chopt Road, an old Indian hunting path worn in to create a major east to west thoroughfare. Although Charlottesville may be best known for housing both Thomas Jefferson's estate at Monticello and the University of Virginia, we have a rich and distinct history that dates back well before the American Revolution. Charlottesville is birthplace to the famed pioneers of the Northwest Passage Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. In and around Charlottesville are a plethora of Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields and other sites. Charlottesville also boasts that it was the home of three of America's Founding Fathers and U.S. Presidents, James Madison at Montpelier, James Monroe at Ash Lawn, and Thomas Jefferson at Monticello.

Charlottesville is set on the backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains and is centrally located in Virginia being only 70 miles from the State Capital Richmond, 100 miles from the Virginia Beach, and 120 miles from our national capital Washington D.C. Charlottesville City and its surrounding area has manifested into an economic, educational, and cultural leader in the Central Virginia area. We are a leader in small business and commerce in Central Virginia, we have a first rate and nationally recognized public education and arts programs and a flourishing food, local art and music scene that are rare among small or mid-sized cities. We have a beautiful and thriving open air historic "Downtown Mall" as well as many other small businesses, restaurants, and shops around the area. We have several gradated venues that hold local acts and performers as well as large production shows and growing or big name musical acts. We are also currently a sister city to several international municipalities three of which are in Europe, Besancon, France, Pleven, Bulgaria, Poggio a Caiano, Italy, and Winneba, Ghana, and hope to add more in the future.

We are not only delighted but honored to be a part of this joyous occasion. Though our common history may be limited to this one extraordinary woman we can now share a larger sense of connection and community with you all. As you all celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Princess Charlotte as Queen we are preparing the year long celebration of the birth of our city. These celebrations of history offer us an opportunity to ponder and reflect where we have been, where we are now, and where we are headed in the future. We honor the past and present while looking forward to the creation of a better tomorrow for all citizens of the earth. We would like to congratulate you on this milestone in history and hope that this year is one of joy and prosperity. We look forward to hearing more about your celebration and could not be happier to share this piece of history with you all.

Sincerely and Cordially,

Dave Norris
Mayor of Charlottesville