

For the River, for Our City

A poem for the City of Alexandria's 274th birthday, held at the Potomac River, July 8, 2023

Gratitude for the city by the Potomac, for a history long flowing
Like this river that meanders for miles far from our sight

Gratitude for offering clear, still water, mirror to the sky
And for churning muddy waves that pull deep earth to light

For shores and sand beds, wildflowers, smooth stones
For blue herons preening, turtles sunning, ducks dabbling, frogs croaking at night

For clouds embracing sun rays, releasing splendid colors at dusk
For moon rays dancing on ripples, shimmering bright

Gratitude for manifold fish, bountiful and silvery fine
For twigs and logs and driftwood gliding in gentleness and might

For families picnicking, children frolicking, runners on a path
Dog walkers and lovers strolling, boaters with sails so white

For early risers seeking solace at sunrise, lost in thought
Pondering the state of the world—united, we'll make it right

Gratitude for our port city, Alexandria, that brings us together
We celebrate our joys by the river, we sing a song of thanks tonight