

County of Buncombe

Proclamation

OPERATION GREEN LIGHT

WHEREAS, the residents of Buncombe County have great respect, admiration, and gratitude for all of the people who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the people who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our residents; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County Veterans Services offers assistance to local veterans including life insurance, home loans, healthcare, vocational rehabilitation and training, disability benefits, and more; and

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court assists justice-involved veterans through a voluntary, court-supervised intensive treatment court that has supported hundreds of veterans achieve stability and healing since it was established in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is home to the Charles George VA Medical Center, which provides high-quality care for veterans across the region; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually and an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

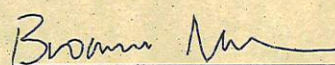
WHEREAS, Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States Military Personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted;

NOW, THEREFORE with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Buncombe County hereby declares Veterans Day, November 11, 2023, and the weeks following, a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service; and

THEREFORE, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners proclaims recognition of **Operation Green Light** for Veterans, lighting the courthouse and Health and Human Services building green in its honor from Nov. 6-12, and encourages its residents in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.

Adopted this the 7th day of November, 2023.



Brownie Newman, Chairman
Buncombe County Board of Commissioner