

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING

OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, the residents of Orange County respect, admire, and appreciate the individuals who selflessly have served the United States of America in the Armed Forces by placing themselves in challenging or perilous situations for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those individuals who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and ways of life that we enjoy in our local communities; and

WHEREAS, Orange County seeks to join other communities through Operation Green Light for Veterans in shining a light on the plight of veterans across the country who are having a hard time connecting with benefits after serving their country; and

WHEREAS, some seventy percent (70%) of veterans experiencing homelessness also experience substance use disorders, and fifty percent (50%) live with mental illnesses such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually, and an estimated twenty percent (20%) increase in 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 Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

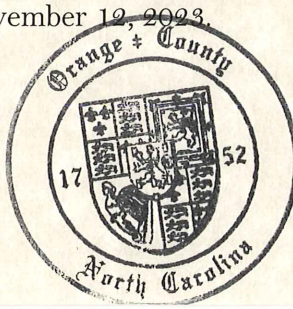
WHEREAS, military veterans continue to serve our communities in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation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

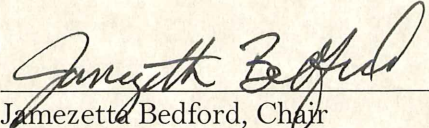
WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Orange County Board of Commissioners accepts the designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, and hereby declares that the period from November 6, 2023 through November 12, 2023, including Veterans Day, November 11th, shall be a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our individuals in uniform transitioning from Active Service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Orange County will pursue displaying green lights in the Orange County Courthouse and/or other public buildings, and encourages residents to recognize and honor those service members who have sacrificed immeasurably to preserve our freedoms by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence from November 6, 2023 through November 12, 2023.

This 2nd day of November, 2023.





Jamezetta Bedford, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners