

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the series of wars in which our nation has been engaged over time, since World War II, has resulted in 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers who are parents, spouses, siblings and friends, caring for those wounded, ill or injured who have served our nation, as documented by the 2014 Rand Study commissioned by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the daily tasks of these military and veteran caregivers can include bathing, feeding, dressing and caring for the grievous injuries of wounded warriors, administering medications, providing emotional support, caring for the family and the home and working outside the home to earn essential income; and

WHEREAS, the nation provides multi-faceted support to our wounded, ill and injured veterans and service members through public, private and philanthropic resources, but their caregivers receive little support or acknowledgement; and

WHEREAS, most military and veteran caregivers consider the challenging work they do as simply carrying out their civic and patriotic duty, without realizing they are, in fact, caregivers and do not identify themselves as such; and

WHEREAS, an alarming number of military and veteran caregivers, according to research, are suffering numerous debilitating mental, physical and emotional effects as a result of their caregiving duties; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville desires to recognize and support those who are serving in these vital roles in our own community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim Gainesville as a

Hidden Heroes City

and invite all our citizens to join me and work to ensure that our government, organizations, employers and non-profits are aware of the unique challenges of military and veteran caregivers and are encouraged to create supportive environments and opportunities for assistance and designate a point of contact for our city, from the public or private sector, for citizens and organizations wanting to offer support, and for caregivers who need that support.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 20th day of September, A.D., 2016.





Lauren Poe
Mayor