



Proclamation

Purple Heart City

TO THE CITIZENS OF BEL AIRE, KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is the oldest American military decoration and was created as The Badge of Military Merit, made of purple cloth in the shape of a heart with the word "Merit" sewn upon it, on August 7, 1782 in Newburgh, New York by General George Washington, then reestablished as the Purple Heart on February 22, 1932 by General Douglas MacArthur; and

WHEREAS, the heritage it represents is sacred to those who know the price paid to wear the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bel Aire, Kansas and our community have a great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have, and are, selflessly serving their country and this community in the Armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have paid the high price of freedom by leaving their families and communities and placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

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

WHEREAS, many men and women in uniform have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, citizens of our country have received the Purple Heart Medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force, construed as a singularly meritorious act of essential service; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bel Aire seeks to remember and recognize veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal.

THEREFORE, I, Mayor Jim Benage, proclaim the City of Bel Aire, Kansas to be a Purple Heart City, honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform, wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect our freedoms.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of Bel Aire, Kansas this 3rd day of December, 2024.

Jim Benage, Mayor

