



RESOLUTION NO. 2022-026

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH, FLORIDA, BECOMING A “HIDDEN HEROES TOWN” IN SUPPORT OF HIGHLAND BEACH’S MILITARY AND VETERAN CAREGIVERS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the series of wars and conflicts 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 Town of Highland Beach desires to recognize and support those who are serving in these vital roles in our own community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the Town of Highland Beach become a Hidden Heroes (City/County) in support of military and veteran caregivers.

Section 2. That the Town of Highland Beach seek to identify military and veteran caregivers residing in our community and determine the unique challenges they face.

Section 3. That the Town of Highland Beach 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.

Section 4. That the Town of Highland Beach plan an annual observance or resource fair to recognize the community's military and veteran caregivers in partnership with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's national Hidden Heroes campaign and connect them with local resources.

Section 5. That the Town of Highland Beach encourage all who care for and support veterans and service members to extend that support to their caregivers.

Section 6. That the Town of Highland Beach designate a point of contact for our community, from the public or private sector, for citizens and organizations wanting to offer support, and caregivers who need that support.

Section 7. That the Town of Highland Beach use the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's Military Caregiver Experience Map to understand the stages of the military caregiver journey and use it as a tool to encourage community understanding and support.

DONE AND ADOPTED by the Town Commission of the Town of Highland Beach, Florida, this **01** day of **November 2022**.

ATTEST:

Douglas Hillman, Mayor

**REVIEWED FOR LEGAL
SUFFICIENCY**

Lanelda Gaskins, MMC
Town Clerk

Glen Torcivia, Town Attorney
Town of Highland Beach

VOTES:

YES NO

Mayor Douglas Hillman
Vice Mayor Natasha Moore
Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman
Commissioner Evalyn David
Commissioner John Shoemaker