



## PROCLAMATION HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS ACROSS AMERICA

**Whereas,** The Vietnam War spanned nearly 15 years, involving North Vietnam and the Vietcong in conflict with South Vietnam and the United States, along with our allies, ending nearly 47 years ago in 1975; and

**Whereas,** More than 9 million Americans, including many from Hermiston, courageously answered their country's call to service during the Vietnam War, being deployed to unknown lands far from their homes and loved ones, and enduring the horrors of war while fighting to preserve our freedoms and way of life; and

**Whereas,** More than 58,000 American service members never returned home, making the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation, their names now etched in black granite on The Wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and more than 1,500 service members remain missing in action; and

**Whereas,** Many of those who did return home did not receive the heroes' welcome that they deserved, and instead, were too often subjected to abuse and treated shamefully by an American government and public that were deeply divided over the unpopular war, causing pain, trauma and other consequences that have been long-term and intergenerational; and

**Whereas,** The 11th of November is commemorated as Veterans Day in the United States to recognize all servicemembers of the U.S. armed forces who have served in times of foreign conflict and in times of peace;

**Now, Therefore,** I, Dr. Dave Drotzmann, Mayor of Hermiston, Oregon do hereby proclaim, acknowledge, and express our tremendous and undying gratitude for the dedicated service and sacrifices of the American military service members deployed during the Vietnam War, and to the many servicemen and women who supported them in their mission, as well as their family members and loved ones.

**Furthermore,** I express our deep regrets for the Vietnam veterans and their families whose loyal service to our Nation was not recognized as it should have been, when it should have been, and for all the unnecessary pain and trauma this may have caused.

SIGNED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022

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Dr. David Drotzmann, Mayor