

# Proclamation

## Purple Heart City

**WHEREAS,** *the City of Lake City has always supported its military veteran population; and*

**WHEREAS,** *the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in present use and was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782; and*

**WHEREAS,** *the Purple Heart was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is awarded to any member of the United States Armed Services wounded or killed in combat with a declared enemy of the United States; and*

**WHEREAS,** *the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat-wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and most importantly, ensure we never forget the sacrifices made by those so decorated; and*

**WHEREAS,** *the City of Lake City appreciates the sacrifices our Purple Heart recipients made in defending our freedoms and believes it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and show them the honor and support they have earned; and*

**WHEREAS,** *the City of Lake City seeks to pay tribute to the men and women who have selflessly served our country and recognize the sacrifices they have made.*

**NOW, THEREFORE,** *I, Stephen Witt, Mayor of the City of Lake City, Florida, do hereby proclaim the City of Lake City as 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 this seal to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 2024.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Stephen M. Witt, Mayor  
City of Lake City*

**Seal of the City of Lake City  
State of Florida**