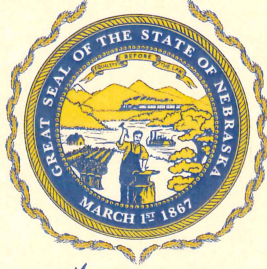


STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

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 acknowledgment; 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 State of Nebraska desires to recognize and support those who are serving in these vital roles in our own community.

NOW THEREFORE,

I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the State of Nebraska a

HIDDEN HEROES STATE

in support of military of veteran caregivers. The Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs will work to ensure Nebraska's counties, cities, and communities are aware of the unique challenges of military and veteran caregivers; encourage them to create supportive environments and opportunities for assistance; plan an annual observance to recognize the state's military and veteran caregivers in partnership with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's national Hidden Heroes campaign; designate a point of contact to connect citizens and organizations wanting to offer support with caregivers who need that support; and 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.

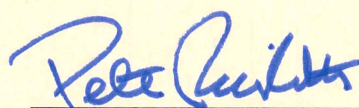
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty.

Attest:





Secretary of State



Governor