

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The American Legion was founded in March 1919 in Paris, France, by U.S. World War I military personnel stationed there who were dedicated to four pillars of service and advocacy: veterans, defense, youth, and Americanism; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion today consists of 55 departments in each of the 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, France, Mexico, the Philippines and Puerto Rico, operating through more than 12,500 local posts worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The current national membership is nearly 2 million, making The American Legion the largest veterans service organization in the nation, with an affiliated American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion program, comprising an American Legion Family membership in excess of 3 million; and

WHEREAS, American Legion membership is open to military personnel and veterans who have served their nation on active duty during wartime, and eligibility has been open to all who have served on active duty and were honorably discharged since Aug. 2, 1990, the beginning of continuous U.S. armed conflict in the Middle East and other locations around the planet; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been instrumental in the creation of multiple major institutions of American society, including formation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, creation of U.S. Flag Code, passage of the GI Bill and more; and

WHEREAS, American Legion posts annually provide more than 3.7 million hours of volunteer service in their communities; donate more than 80,000 pints of blood to collection centers nationwide, making it the nation's single largest blood donor; award more than 8,000 medals to Junior ROTC students; sponsors more than 2,300 Scouting units serving more than 64,000 young people; awards more than \$4 million in college scholarships; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 American Legion service officers are continuously assisting with more than 750,000 veterans benefits cases worldwide at any one time; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is the nation's leading ambassador organization to honor and remember the nation's military sacrifices, through thousands of memorials and monuments around the world; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion 105th Anniversary mantra is "Be the One" - an initiative that encourages American Legion Family members, veterans, servicemembers and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide.

NOW, THEREFORE, The City Council of the City of Douglas, do hereby proclaim March 15, 2024 as:

"American Legion Day"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set the our hands and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Douglas on this 11th day of March, 2024.

Kim Pexton, Mayor

Attest:

Ron McNare, Councilperson

Mary Nicol, City Clerk

Perry Hershberger, Councilperson

Matt Schmidt, Councilperson

John Bartling, Councilperson