



Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the series of wars and conflicts in which our nation has been engaged over time, since World War II, has resulted in 14.3 million military and veteran caregivers who are parents, spouses, siblings, friends, and loved ones caring for those wounded, ill, or injured who have served our nation; 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,** data suggests that military and veteran caregivers provide services valued at a minimum of \$119 billion, but they spend approximately \$8,500 in out-of-pocket expenses because of their caregiving, forgo an estimated \$4,522 in annual household income earnings, and are mostly not accessing benefits that they are likely entitled to receive, and
- WHEREAS,** 35% of military and veteran caregiving households have incomes below 130 percent of the federal poverty level, 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,** the state of Louisiana is home to 100,000 military and veteran caregivers who care for wounded, ill, or aging service members and veterans; and
- WHEREAS,** the state of Louisiana acknowledges that 32,000 of our 262,000 veterans are supported by one or more dedicated caregivers; and
- WHEREAS,** the Elizabeth Dole Foundation is bringing vital attention to the untold stories of military and veteran caregivers and seeking solutions for the tremendous challenges and long-term needs they face and the urgent need for comprehensive support; and
- WHEREAS,** the state of Louisiana desires to work with Dole Caregiver Fellows to understand the local needs of the caregiver population and plan strategic caregiver support initiatives in partnership with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's national Hidden Heroes campaign; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Louisiana desires to recognize and support those who are serving in these vital roles in our own community; and

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
State of Louisiana

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WHEREAS,

the State of Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs has incorporated caregiver resources into programming for Louisiana's service members, veterans, and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Jeff Landry, Governor of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim Louisiana to be a

Hidden Heroes State

in support of military and veteran caregivers, as designated by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.



In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana at the Capitol in the city of Baton Rouge on this 17th day of October A.D. 2024.


Governor of Louisiana