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LM 8/10/2022

## **RESOLUTION #20-2022**

WHEREAS, the 286,000 residents of Dauphin County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dauphin County seeks to further honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 17,000 veterans live in Dauphin County and we recognize our obligation to outreach with those individuals and their families, providing resources and support in a wide range of need areas, including benefits and health care, transportation availability, and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, other Veteran Service Organizations, religious groups, and by functioning as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

**WHEREAS**, a Pew Research Center study shows that 47% of post 9/11 veterans indicated readjusting to civilian life was difficult; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service and one in five post 9/11 say they struggled with substance abuse after leaving the military; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Dauphin County's participation in Operation Green Light will enhance awareness of its veteran-centric programs including Veteran's Treatment Court, Together with Veterans, the Military Share program, a free bus service program, and a discount card program; and

**WHEREAS**, Dauphin County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States Military Personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, the Board of Commissioners of Dauphin County hereby declares the period of November 7 - 13, 2022, as Operation Green Light for Veterans Week as a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service, and encourage its citizens to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.

**ADOPTED** by the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners this  $10^{TH}$  day of August, 2022.

DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Pries, Chairman

Chad Saylor, Vice Chairman

George P. Hartwick, III, Secretary

ATTEST:

Stephen B. Libhart, Deputy Chief Clerk