P R O C L A M A T I O N

Whereas, in 1996, the Armed Services YMCA officially established Military Family Month to honor the daily sacrifices, resilience and commitment of our active duty, Guard, and Reserve military families; and,

Whereas, November has long held deep significance because of Veterans Day, which traces its roots to the WWI armistice in 1918 and was expanded in 1954 to honor all U.S. veterans; and,

Whereas, extending the focus of this month to include veterans and military families highlights the vital role loved ones play behind the scenes who in their own way also serve and sacrifice for our Nation; and,

Whereas, according to the Department of Defense's official Demographic Profile of the Military Community, there are 2,372,286 immediate family members of active duty, Reserve, and National Guard personnel including nearly 1million spouses and nearly 1.5 million children; and,

Whereas, Military Families regularly manage long deployments, frequent relocations, school transitions for children, and extended separations from service members; and,

Whereas, most children of our Military Families will be transferred 6-9 times by the 12th grade with nearly 1 in 4 military families experiencing food insecurity, half of all military families reporting feeling isolated from their communities and nearly 1 in 3 military children considering self-harm during their teens; and,

Whereas, the care of military families and children sustains our fighting force, and strengthens the health, security, and safety of our nation's families and communities.

Now, Therefore, I, Robert T. Barnett, Mayor of the Village of Downers Grove, do hereby proclaim November 2026 as Veterans and Military Families Month.

I call upon the residents, businesses and guests of the Village of Downers Grove to honor veterans and military families by first recognizing that the service of a soldier and the support of their families is different from the politics of war. Second by volunteering or donating to groups such as the American Legion, VFW, Blue Star Families, Operation Homefront and the National Military Family Association and to local food assistance organizations such as the FISH Pantry, Hope's Front Door, People's Resource Center and the West Suburban Community Pantry. And lastly, by engaging each other – including our Veteran and Military Families – as neighbors and friends each and every day.

Dated this 3rd day of November, 2026, at Downers Grove, Illinois.

