RESOLUTION 2019-35

AGENDA ITEM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Shellie J. Blades, City Clerk & Steve Rasmussen, City Manager

DATE: November 18, 2019

RE: Hidden Heroes Resolution

Details:

The City received a request to consider passing a 'Hidden Heroes' Resolution from Kansas City Councilwoman Heather Hall in conjunction with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's initiative to raise awareness and support for military and veteran caregivers. The Hidden Heroes campaign is a national movement to increase awareness and support for the spouses, parents, and other loved ones who care for wounded, ill or injured veterans at home.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval.

Resolution 2019-35

A HIDDEN HEROES RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CAMERON, MISSOURI IN SUPPORT OF CAMERON'S MILITARY AND VETERAN CAREGIVERS

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 acknowledgement; 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 City of Cameron desires to recognize and support those who are serving in these vital roles in our own community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Cameron, Missouri:

Section 1. That the City of Cameron become a Hidden Heroes City in support of military and veteran caregivers.

Section 2. That the City of Cameron seek to identify military and veteran caregivers residing in our community and determine the unique challenges they face.

Section 3. That the City of Cameron work to ensure that our government, organizations, employers and non-profits are aware of the unique challenges of military and veteran caregivers and are encouraged to create supportive environments and opportunities for assistance.

Section 4. That the City of Cameron plan an annual observance or resource fair to recognize the community's military and veteran caregivers in partnership with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's national Hidden Heroes campaign and connect them with local resources.

Section 5. That the City of Cameron encourage all who care for and support veterans and service members to extend that support to their caregivers.

Section 6. That the City of Cameron designate a point of contact for our community, from the public or private sector, for citizens and organizations wanting to offer support, and caregivers who need that support.

Section 7. That the City of Cameron 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.

Passed and approved by the City of Cameron, Missouri on this 18th day of November 2019.

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Mayor Darlene Breckenridge

ATTEST:

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City Clerk