



# PROCLAMATION

## ARMED FORCES DAY

**Whereas,** since the earliest days of our Union, America has been blessed with an unbroken chain of patriots willing to give of themselves so their fellow citizens might live free. Whenever our Nation has come under attack, courageous men and women in uniform have risen to her defense. Whenever our liberties have come under assault, our service members have responded with resolve. Time and again, these heroes have sacrificed to sustain that powerful promise that we hold so dear -- life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. And on Armed Forces Day, we honor those who serve bravely and sacrifice selflessly in our name; and

**Whereas,** our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen represent the best of the American character. They serve with integrity and do whatever the country they love asks of them, choosing flag over fortune and service over self-interest. Year after year, tour after tour, their dedication to protecting us at home and preserving our ideals never wavers; their commitment to each other never falters. They are the few who carry the remarkable weight of our entire Nation, and in their example we see why America is and always will be the greatest country on Earth; and

**Whereas,** today, we pause to express our gratitude, mindful that words and ceremonies are not enough and that our thanks extend not only to those in uniform, but also to the families who serve alongside them. We are bound by a sacred obligation to ensure our service members and their loved ones have the resources and benefits they have earned and deserve, and only when we uphold this trust do we truly show our appreciation for our Armed Forces.

**Now, therefore,** I, Jerry Koch, Mayor of the City of Coon Rapids, on behalf of the Coon Rapids City Council, hereby proclaim Saturday, May 21, 2016, as **Coon Rapids Salute to Our Armed Forces Day** and encourage all citizens to pause and express our gratitude to all our service personnel for all they do for our community and country.

Proclaimed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

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Jerry Koch, Mayor

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Joan Lenzmeier, City Clerk