



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2015, the City of North Port, Florida, proudly declared itself a Purple Heart City through File #14-0781, pledging to honor the service and sacrifice of those wounded or killed in combat; and

WHEREAS, for nearly a decade, this honorable designation has stood as a testament to our community's respect, yet it calls for meaningful and visible expression to educate our more than 90,000 residents and visitors about the profound legacy of the Purple Heart, our nation's oldest military decoration; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Port has been selected as the permanent home for the Van of Valor, a mobile memorial that recently completed a 280-day, 27,106-mile pilgrimage across all 48 contiguous United States, conducting 312 interviews with Purple Heart recipients and Gold Star families and memorializing over 400 fallen heroes; and

WHEREAS, the Van of Valor serves as a rolling archive of American history, a tangible connection to the National Purple Heart Trail, a ready-made educational center, and the physical embodiment of the sacrifice our Purple Heart City designation was created to honor; and

WHEREAS, the arrival and permanent establishment of the Van of Valor in North Port provides a historic opportunity to transform a decade-old pledge into a living, active legacy of remembrance, education, and community pride; and

WHEREAS, aligning this project with our Purple Heart City status will enhance our community's role in the national commemorative landscape, especially as our nation approaches its 250th anniversary.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, do hereby proclaim January 8th, 2026 as

“CITY OF NORTH PORT AS A PURPLE HEART CITY”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and Seal of the City of North Port, Florida, to be affixed this 8th day of January 2026.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

Pete Emrich, Mayor



Barbara Langdon, Vice-Mayor

Phil Stokes, Commissioner

David Duval, Commissioner

Demetrius Petrow, Commissioner

ATTEST

Heather Faust, City Clerk