



# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our State and Nation, countless courageous individuals have bravely answered our Country's call to patriotic duty; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War lasted for almost two decades, making it one of the longest military conflicts in United States' history. The United States became involved in the Vietnam War after the arrival of American military personnel in South Vietnam in the 1950s and ended with the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975; and

WHEREAS, as the war continued, the United States' involvement increased to astounding numbers: over 2.7 million troops were deployed; nearly 60,000 killed in action; over 300,000 were wounded; and today, nearly 2,000 are still unaccounted for; and

WHEREAS, those who returned home were burdened with shrapnel and scars and haunted by invisible wounds of emotional trauma, of Agent Orange, and the memories of the unspeakable adversities they endured; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, a 13-year long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War was launched to ensure that every veteran, family, caregiver, and survivor impacted by the difficult years in Vietnam feels our gratitude for their sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, communities across Alaska have been holding commemorative events to honor Vietnam Veterans on this day since 2014 and this year marks the first such event to be held in Valdez; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, United States President Donald Trump signed a bill into law proclaiming Vietnam Veterans Day to be held every 29<sup>th</sup> day in March.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Sharon Scheidt, Mayor of the City of Valdez, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, March 29, 2023 as

## VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

And urge Valdez citizens to join in the commemorative event hosted by the Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs to pay tribute to the fallen, the missing, the wounded, those who served, and those who awaited their return.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

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Sharon Scheidt, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk