



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger designated April as the Month of the Military Child in 1986 to recognize sacrifices made by military children and their families worldwide; and

WHEREAS, military children may have one or both parents in the military, may experience one or both parents deployed, may experience moving every few years within the continental United States and overseas; and

WHEREAS, military children are expected to support the mission by understanding the parent(s) need to put duty before family. Sometimes older children "fill in" to help with chores around the home and with younger siblings; and

WHEREAS, military children may miss many opportunities for family celebrations and activities with their military parent, such as birthdays, recitals, sporting events, holidays, and other special occasions; and

WHEREAS, part of the month-long celebration in communities and school districts around the world recognize our military children with Purple Up! Day; and

WHEREAS, there are over 17,000 kids in Alaska whose parents serve in either Active Duty, National Guard, or Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, the color purple indicates all the branches of the military are supported; Air Force is blue, Space Force is blue, Navy is blue, Army is green, Marines are red, and Coast Guard is blue, which combines to a single color, purple; and

WHEREAS, Purple Up! Day gives the community an opportunity to recognize our youngest heroes and share their stories; and

WHEREAS, everyone in the community are asked to wear purple on Purple Up! Day to show support for our military children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Austin Love, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Valdez, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2026, as The Month of the Military Child, and

April 9, 2026 As Purple Up! Day For Military Children

in Valdez, and on this day encourage our residents to display or wear purple in support of our military children.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2026.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Austin Love, Mayor Pro Temp

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk