CITY OF KIRKLAND
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033
425-587-3000

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Jim Lopez, Deputy City Manager for External Affairs
Erika Mascorro, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Manager
Daniel Lazo, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator

Date: March 27, 2026

Subject: **Veterans and Military Families Month Proclamation**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, proclaims November 2026 as "Veterans and Military Families Month" in Kirkland.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Veterans and Military Families Month honors and recognizes all United States veterans for their service and sacrifice in defense of our freedom and democracy, as well as the families who stand beside them through deployments, relocation, and challenges of military life.
- This proclamation aligns with Kirkland's City values and strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB).
- This proclamation is part of the City Council's adopted 2026 proclamation schedule.

BACKGROUND:

Efforts to honor both veterans and their families date back more than a century. In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day, a day marked by parades, public gatherings, and a suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m. An act of Congress on May 13, 1938, made Armistice Day a legal holiday dedicated to honoring veterans of World War I. Following World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd Congress amended the act in 1954 to replace the word "Armistice" with "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first official Veterans Day Proclamation that same year.[1]

[1] https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/history-of-veterans-day/

Recognition of veterans and their families broadened over the decades that followed. Veterans and Military Families Month was first established in 1996 by the Armed Services YMCA.[2] The first president to proclaim November as Military Family Month was President Barack Obama, who issued a Presidential Proclamation in 2009, acknowledging the importance of military families and their role in supporting those who serve.[3]

Building upon those earlier recognitions, President Donald Trump first formally proclaimed November as National Veterans and Military Families Month in 2017, expanding the observance to honor both veterans and their families together. Each year since, a presidential proclamation has reaffirmed November as a time to celebrate and reflect on the courage, dedication, and service of those who have worn our nation's uniform—and the strength and resilience of the families who support them.

In Kirkland, the observance of this month carries special meaning given the City's historic connection to national service. The Lake Washington Shipyards—formerly located at what is now Carillon Point—became a major defense production site, employing approximately 8,000 workers at its peak. Between 1940 and 1945, the shipyards repaired 477 war-damaged vessels and built 29 new warships for the U.S. Navy, contributing significantly to the nation's wartime effort.

Today, the observance of Veterans and Military Families Month serves as a unifying period of appreciation, connecting Veterans Day, observed on November 11, with a broader month-long recognition of the ongoing contributions and challenges faced by veterans, service members, and their loved ones.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

This proclamation aligns with Kirkland's City values and strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). Council has adopted legislation supporting these values, including:

- **Resolution R-5240** (2017) declaring Kirkland a safe, inclusive, welcoming community for all people;
- **Resolution R-5434** (2020) expressing commitments to improving the safety and respect of Black people and approving the framework to create a community committed to examining and dismantling interpersonal, institutional, and structural racism in Kirkland;
- **Resolution R-5548** (2022) adopting the City's DEIB 5-Year Roadmap;
- **Resolution R-5686** (2025) declaring Kirkland as a welcoming, inclusive, and safe city for the Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQIA+) people and recognizing their human rights and well-being; and
- **Resolution R-5693** (2025) reaffirming the City's commitment to being a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community where all people belong.

There are several local resources available for veterans and military families seeking support, including the Kirkland-Bellevue American Legion Post No. 99,[4] the King County Veterans

[2] https://veteran.com/military-family-month/
[3] https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2009/11/04/E9-26758/military-family-month-2009
[4] WA Post 0099 PO Box 198 Kirkland, WA 98083-0198; 206-719-7582; alpost99kirkland@gmail.com

Program,[5] and the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.[6]

NEXT STEPS:

The person accepting this proclamation will be announced at the Council meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Veterans and Military Families Month Proclamation

[5] https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/human-social-services/king-county-veterans-program
[6] https://dva.wa.gov/

A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Veterans and Military Families Month
November 2026

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, courageous people have answered the call to serve and defend the ideals of liberty and justice upon which our country was founded; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland honors and recognizes all United States veterans for their service and sacrifice in defense of our freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Kirkland played an important role in national defense through the Lake Washington Shipyards—formerly located at what is now Carillon Point—which employed thousands of workers who built and repaired hundreds of vessels for the U.S. Navy, demonstrating the community's spirit of service and contribution to the nation; and

WHEREAS, the families of service members—including spouses, children, parents, and other loved ones—demonstrate strength and resilience as they support their loved ones in uniform, often enduring long separations, relocations, uncertainty, and sometimes sorrow and loss; and

WHEREAS, nationally November is designated as Veterans and Military Families Month, a time to express our deepest gratitude to those who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces and to acknowledge the vital and steadfast support of their families; and

WHEREAS, local agencies, including the American Legion, the King County Veterans Program, and the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, connect service members, veterans, and their families with housing, wellness, employment, and benefit-navigation resources; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to fostering a community that welcomes and supports veterans, active-duty service members, and their families through civic engagement, outreach, and programs that promote well-being, inclusion, and opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, Mayor Kelli Curtis, on behalf of the City Council, proclaims November 2026, as Veterans and Military Families Month in Kirkland, Washington, and encourages all community members to honor, recognize, and support the veterans, service members, and their families who have given so much in service to our community and our nation.

Signed this 4th day of November, 2026

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Kelli Curtis, Mayor