

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-07

A RESOLUTION EMBRACING THE WARRIOR TO CITIZEN INITIATIVE.

Whereas: Our great nation was founded on three simple and yet profound principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and

Whereas: As Americans we hold and cherish these values for our citizens and for all around the world who share and value freedom and

Whereas: These guiding principles are challenged from time to time by those who wish to oppress the rights of individuals and

Whereas: Since the time of the American Revolutionary War, the men and women of the United States Armed Services have spent time away from family, friends, their professions, communities and their own pursuit of life liberty and happiness in order to ensure these principles for others at home and abroad and

Whereas: We recognize that the families of deployed service men and women also make sacrifices for our nation and

Whereas: Through the tireless commitment and service of the United States Armed Services, these principles still prevail and

Whereas: We recognize, honor and support the needs of the members of the United States Armed Services throughout their service to our country, upon their return home, as they once again enjoy the principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. and

Whereas: Families of service members make special sacrifices, which are not often seen by others and as a result may need additional community support. and

Whereas: We the undersigned mayors on behalf of our cities support, recognize and honor the service of the members of the United States Armed Services and their families and we encourage others to do likewise and

Whereas: This community support will include support for deployed services members and their families until those who serve the cause of freedom have returned home to embark once again on their own pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

Therefore be it resolved that the elected officials of the cities listed below encourage our cities, their residents, their business communities, non profit organizations, faith-based community and educational providers to embrace the Warrior to Citizen initiative in central Minnesota as we endeavor to become a Yellow Ribbon Community in Minnesota as recognized by the governor of the state of Minnesota, the honorable Tim Pawlenty.

ATTEST:

VERENA M. WEBER-CMC
ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK

JEFF HAGEN
MAYOR

Central Minnesota: Working Together to Become a Yellow Ribbon Community

The city of _____ pledges to support the Warrior to Citizen initiative, which is focused on the service members, veterans and their families of Central Minnesota. We pledge the following:

Honoring the Spirit of Freedom

- Say the Pledge of Allegiance at city related meetings.
- Fly the American flag on national holidays and other special days and encourage community members to do the same.
- Attend Memorial and Veterans Day events in your community or region.

Increasing Community Awareness, Understanding and Action

- Inform community members about the Warrior to Citizen initiative and how they can become involved.
- Engage two representatives from participating area cities to collaborate with the Warrior to Citizen Central Minnesota planning team.
- Secure presentation time with community groups and organizations to inform on the Warrior to Citizen initiative.
- Making opportunities available for city employees and community members to participate in educational opportunities planned in the Central Minnesota region that relate to the challenges facing veterans and their families.
- Considering development of an employer award and/or joining together for an area-wide award for employers who provide outstanding levels of support to veterans and their families
- Working with the Warrior to Citizen planning team to provide government access cable television time for educational programming on the effort.

Assisting our Service Members and their Families

- Host links to key federal, state and local military and veterans' resources on the city website.
- As employers, considerer service personnel and veterans' skills and experience when making hiring decisions, and encouraging other employers to do the same.
- As employers, abiding by laws that protect service members' and veterans' employment following activation.
- As employers, working with the family members of deployed and returning service members to accommodate their personal and family situations, where possible.

Signature: _____
Mayor

Attest: _____

Date: _____

Putting the Pledge into Action

This pledge is not meant to be a financial burden or commitment for the allocation of funds; instead it contains items, some of which your city may already be doing, to help meet the goals of the central Minnesota Warrior to Citizen initiative. Our hope is that this partnership will raise awareness of the sacrifices made by Central Minnesota veterans and their families in the service of our country.

Honoring the Spirit of Freedom

- **Say the Pledge of Allegiance at city related meetings.** - We understand that many cities in our area are currently doing this.
- **Fly the American flag on national holidays and other special days and encourage community members to do the same.** – Again, we understand that many cities in our area are already doing this as well. However, increasing the awareness of such days in your community could be done by working with Veterans groups, by including these dates in city newsletters, on web sites, on community message boards, etc.
- **Attend Memorial and Veterans Day events in your community or region.** – As elected officials send representatives from your council to attend such events and promote these events in your community. Promotion could be done in a similar fashion as outlined above in the “Fly the American flag...” section.

Increasing community awareness and understanding

- **Inform community members about the Warrior to Citizen initiative and how they can become involved.** – Through the efforts listed in this initiative and seizing opportunities available in each community the level awareness will increase.
- **Engage two representatives from participating area cities to collaborate with the Warrior to Citizen planning team.** – In an effort to engage the various sectors of the community, the Warrior to Citizen Committee is asking the leadership of such sectors to provide representatives to be a part of our committee. We are asking for two elected officials from our local cities to serve on the Warrior to Citizen Committee. Sartell Mayor Tim O’Driscoll is a member of the Warrior to Citizen Committee; therefore one additional elected official is being sought at this time.
- **Secure presentation time with community groups and organizations to inform on the Warrior to Citizen initiative** – Working with local

schools, faith-based organization and community education programs and others to promote the increased awareness of veteran related needs.

- ***Making opportunities available for city employees and community members to participate in educational opportunities planned in the Central Minnesota region that relate to the challenges facing veterans and their families*** – As some of the local cities have employees who are members of the National Guard and have been or subject to military deployment, increase the awareness in employee work groups of the challenges facing veterans and their families associated with deployment and reintegration upon returning to the workplace.
- ***Considering development of an employer award and/or joining together for an area-wide award for employers who provide outstanding levels of support to veterans and their families*** – Develop a recognition program within your city to call out the efforts of people or businesses in your community that provide exceptional support of veterans and their families. The city of St. Cloud has already begun such a program.
- ***Working with the Warrior to Citizen planning team to provide government access cable television time for educational programming on the effort*** – To the extent that your city has cable television resources available, provide airtime for veteran information programs. Many may be in the form of messages others and may also include broadcasting pre-recorded programming.

Assisting our Service Members and their Families

- ***Host links to key federal, state and local military and veterans' resources on the city website*** – The Warrior to Citizen Committee will provide each city with web site links and information on veteran and family resources. We would ask that they be posted on your city's web site, if your city has one.
- ***As employers, considerer service personnel and veterans' skills and experience when making hiring decisions, and encouraging other employers to do the same*** – Past and present service members possess skills that they have gained as a part of their military training that transfer well to the private sector. Therefore, when possible, increase the awareness of the availability of these skill sets in your community in both public and private arenas.
- ***As employers, abiding by laws that protect service members' and veterans' employment following activation*** – Be respectful of the laws and encourage others to do the same, as relates to veterans rights to

prepare for deployment and upon their return and reintegration back to civilian life.

- ***As employers, working with the family members of deployed and returning service members to accommodate their personal and family situations, where possible.*** - Reintegration to civilian life presents veterans and their families with unique challenges. Therefore, providing reasonable accommodation for reintegration may be needed.

March 6, 2009

Dear Fellow Mayor:

The Warrior to Citizen initiative of central Minnesota provided those gathered at the last area cities meeting in Waite Park on January 27th background and information on their desire to have the cities of central Minnesota become "Yellow Ribbon Communities." You will recall that their message was well received that evening by those in attendance.

Attached you will find language that will be placed in proclamation form and a separate pledge that lists the activities that participating cities should strive to meet to achieve "Yellow Ribbon Community" status. As a part of this regional effort, the Warrior to Citizen Committee is asking for your city's pledge and support.

If your community is interested in becoming a "Yellow Ribbon Community" of central Minnesota, the Warrior to Citizen Committee asks that your council provide approval of the pledge and proclamation no later than April 30, 2009. Should you wish to have a presentation to your council on the initiative, the Warrior to Citizen Committee would be happy to send members to visit with your council. Presentations can be arranged by contacting Betty Schnettler of the United Way of Central Minnesota at 229-3507. Once your council takes action on the pledge of support and proclamation, please forward a signed copy to:

Betty Schnettler
c/o United Way of Central Minnesota
2700 First Street North, Suite 300
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Once the list of participating cities is known, mayors and council members will be invited to be participants in a special mayoral proclamation signing ceremony. The tentative date for the proclamation signing is being planned for Saturday, May 16, which is also Armed Services Day. I ask that you "hold" this date in your calendar, as more information and details will follow regarding the specifics of the signing ceremony.

Thank you for your consideration of our nation's service members, veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

Tim O'Driscoll, Mayor
City of Sartell

RESOLUTION 2009-08

Rocori Trail Resolution

Whereas, the Rocori Trail will be a new bike and hiking pathway between communities in Stearns County; and,

Whereas, the Rocori Trail has been promoted by members of our community; and,

Whereas, the Rocori Trail has received substantial federal and state funding to design, acquire, and construct Phase I of the Trail; and,

Whereas, it is time to formalize the governing structure for the Rocori Trail and to provide for the Trail's continued funding; now, therefore,

Let it be Resolved, that the City of Rockville authorizes the development and execution of a Joint Powers Authority with the cities of Rockville, Cold Spring and Richmond to manage the acquisition, design, construction, fiscal management, and the pursuit of funding for expansion of the Rocori Trail; and,

Be it further Resolved, that upon review and recommendation of the City Attorney that the Mayor is authorized to sign such a Joint Powers Agreement; and,

Be it further Resolved, that the City of Rockville authorizes its city administrator to apply for a Federal direct appropriation or authorization for additional federal funding and to the State of Minnesota for bonding or Parks and Trails funding for the expansion of the Rocori Trail; and,

Be it further Resolved, that the Joint Powers Authority report back to the City on a plan for the long-term operation and maintenance of the Rocori Trail, and that the Stearns County Parks Department be approached as a partner in the Rocori Trail; and,

Be it further Resolved, that the City of Rockville encourages its local county commissioners, state representatives, Governor, and federal representatives to support funding for the Rocori Trail and a long-term plan to integrate the Trail into the Stearns County Parks Department and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources trail network in Central Minnesota.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2009

ATTEST:

VERENA M. WEBER-CMC

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK

JEFF HAGEN

MAYOR