

Proclamation

Whereas, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has facilitated aid for veterans and their families in need of medical, rehabilitative, educational, and employment services; and

Whereas, today an estimated 2.6 million people are members of the VFW and its auxiliaries, representing over 9,000 posts worldwide, with more than 84,000 members in Illinois; and

Whereas, the VFW has funded a variety of programs to assist and honor servicemen of all wars; providing free phone cards to active military personnel, raising money for the recently dedicated World War II Memorial, and assisting veterans and their dependents in seeking disability compensation. Last year, the Veterans Service Office in Chicago collected over 83 million in claims for Illinois veterans; and

Whereas, last year, members of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary contributed more than 13 million hours of volunteering services and \$63 million to our communities. Here in Illinois, more than 671,000 hours and \$6 million in community service efforts were donated and 18,959 units of blood were collected; and

Whereas, supporting the community has been a long standing tradition of both the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary with volunteer efforts centering on programs that benefit education and health services, enhance military morale, develop civic pride, and improve the community; and

Whereas, the VFW ^{boasts} a long list of accomplishments in their effort to protect veterans' rights including: delegating members to lead the development of the national cemetery system, advocating for compensation of Vietnam Vets exposed to Agent Orange, and providing 300,000 care packages to troops in Iraq;

Therefore, I, William J. Mueller President of the Village of Lombard, Illinois, hereby concur with the Governor and the State Legislature in designating the **twenty-ninth day of September as Veteran of Foreign Wars Day**, and on this 105th anniversary, encourage all citizens, business establishments, and households within the Village of Lombard to support the efforts of VFW members who each day dedicate themselves to "honoring the dead by helping the living."

Signed _____

William J. Mueller