

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Thomas G. Knight, Colonel (Retired), United States Army, achieved extraordinary accomplishments encompassing more than 44 years in federal service culminates as the Joint Base Chief of Staff for Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM); and

WHEREAS, his services as a highly decorated Officer in the United States Army spanned thirty years and included assignments with Infantry, Special Forces and Civil Military Operations units; and

WHEREAS, during his thirty years of service he received many U.S. Decorations and Badges to include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, CIB/CAB/EIB, Master Parachutist Badge, Special Forces Tab, SCUBA Badge, and the Pathfinder Badge; and

WHEREAS, COL (R) Knight is a graduate of the National Defense University's National War College and the U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College holding a Doctorate in Public Administration and advanced degrees in Political Science, International Relations and National Security Strategy; and

WHEREAS, as the Joint Base Chief of Staff he used his many talents to provide superb leadership, advice and continuity to six Garrison Commanders, eight Army and Air Force Senior Service Component Commanders, and to a civilian work force of over 2,483 employees; and

WHEREAS, COL (R) Knight's outstanding federal civilian service spans from 2007 through 2021 totaling over 14 years; and

WHEREAS, COL (R) Knight is universally recognized for his uncompromising values and ethical foundation for leading by example, sound reasoning, and creative skills for solving complex challenges and problems associated with providing mission essential services; and

WHEREAS, COL (R) Knight worked tirelessly with the City of Lakewood and surrounding leaders to promote community relations and negotiated hundreds of solutions to shared challenges with mutually beneficial outcomes for the entire region; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the formation and establishment of the South Sound Military and Community Partnership's (SSMCP) supporting, establishing and leading many initiatives to benefit our service members and their families; and

WHEREAS, through his SSMCP leadership role he enabled the partnership to establish and pursue legislative priorities with the State of Washington that resulted in a \$500 Million I-5 corridor improvement project that will alleviate traffic congestion near JBLM by increasing the roadway capacity in each direction throughout the six-mile JBLM corridor; and

WHEREAS, COL (R) Knight provided the leadership to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that outlines the action plan to resolve encroachment in the McChord North Clear Zone; and

WHEREAS, COL (R) Knight was instrumental in partnering with the City of Lakewood and SSMCP that resulted in the creation and funding of a new federal law, the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP); and

WHEREAS, COL (R) Knight also guided SSMCP to secure Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) funding to address traffic, housing affordability and availability for Service Members and their families, impact of light pollution on flight and other military training operations; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Joint Base Chief of Staff, COL (R) Knight administered the investment of over \$2.0 billion in federal funds in a wide range of significant military construction projects on JBLM ranging from transportation, housing, barracks, six elementary schools, training facilities, and recreation amenities that addresses and ensures our service members and their families are properly taken care of; and

WHEREAS, COL (R) Knight's exceptional career helped make JBLM the premier and most diverse installation within Department of Defense, the station of choice for both Army and Air Force Service Members, and a committed partner to the City of Lakewood and surrounding communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lakewood City Council and citizens of the City of Lakewood do hereby express our deepest appreciation for

THOMAS G. KNIGHT, COLONEL (RETIRED), USA

for his exemplary accomplishments and for setting the standard for which quality leadership, both civilian and military, should aspire to emulate.

PROCLAIMED this 17th day of May, 2021.



Don Anderson, Mayor