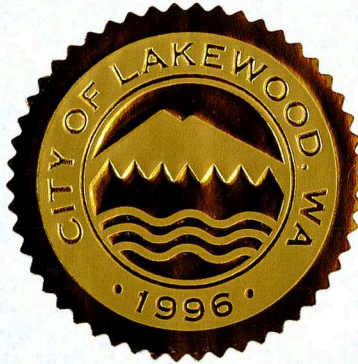


## CITY OF LAKEWOOD



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS,** Blue Star Families seeks to empower military families by connecting them with their neighbors — individuals and organizations — to create vibrant communities of mutual support; and

**WHEREAS,** Blue Star Families annually designates the week beginning the second to last Saturday in September and concluding eight days thereafter as “Blue Star Welcome Week”; and

**WHEREAS,** during this week, we recognize the 600,000 active-duty and transitioning military families who move to new communities each year; and

**WHEREAS,** nearly half of these permanent change of station (PCS) moves occur during the summer; and

**WHEREAS,** only 41% of military family respondents to the 2023 Military Family Lifestyle Survey reported that they feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community; and

**WHEREAS,** a sense of belonging is essential to the well-being and readiness of military families; and

**WHEREAS,** we commit to ensuring that military — and Veteran — connected families feel a strong sense of belonging to their local civilian communities; and

**WHEREAS,** we express gratitude for the sacrifices made by service members, transitioning Veterans, and their families; and

**WHEREAS,** we encourage civilians nationwide to welcome military- and Veteran-connected families into their communities.

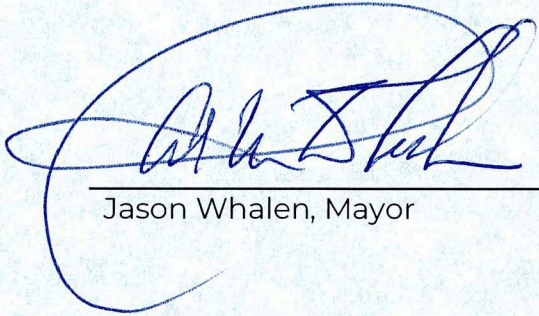


NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Jason Whalen, Mayor of the City of Lakewood, do hereby proclaim September 21, 2024 through September 29, 2024.

## **BLUE STAR WELCOME WEEK**

In the City of Lakewood, Washington.

PROCLAIMED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2024.



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Jason Whalen, Mayor