



PROCLAMATION

of the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado In Recognition of Aid to a Distressed Veteran

WHEREAS, EDC Veterans Affairs Commissioner Todd Smith, EDC Sheriff's Deputies Jill Jencks and Jeramy Buckman, EDC Sheriff's Sergeant Alex Sorey, American Legion Post 119 Service Officer David Zelinsky, Rene Evans of Only Kindness, Tim Whalen of the Military Family Support Group and Iisha Toombs LCSW, Sacramento Veterans Administration Medical Center, Mather, helped to save the life of a Placerville resident, a female U.S. Army combat medic veteran who was suffering from severe combat-related post-traumatic stress and related afflictions; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Jenks of the El Dorado Sheriff's Office was the first to engage, encouraging the veteran to seek medical attention at the Sacramento Veterans Administration Medical Center at Mather Field. When she realized the severity of the veteran's medical condition, Deputy Jenks called Commissioner Smith and asked for his assistance in convincing the veteran to seek care; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Smith and Deputy Jenks put in place a plan to intercede and persuade the vet to accompany them to the VA Hospital. As the vet resisted care, Sergeant Sorey of the Sheriff's H.O.T. team made it possible for Commissioner Smith to transport the vet to Mather safely. Deputy Buckman took a day off from work and volunteered to accompany Smith and the vet; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Smith and Deputy Buckman drove to the veteran's motel quarters and they comforted and observed her as Buckman transported them to Mather. Smith was able to connect with the veteran on the drive and communicate that she was not alone, that other vets cared about her welfare, and that there was hope for her future. As in these cases of combat-stressed veterans, it often takes another vet to be able to talk to and convince the stressed vet to accept care; and

WHEREAS, upon learning of the vet's life-threatening condition, Commissioner Smith called the motel where this homeless veteran was residing to assure that a room would be available for her upon her being discharged from the VA hospital. Smith then contacted American Legion Post Service Officer Zelinsky who engaged others in the effort to get the veteran follow-up care and housing. Tim Whalen of Military Family Support Group with help from Rene Evans of Only Kindness made sure that the veteran would not be out on the street after she returned from Mather with payment for her room provided by the EDC Veterans Affairs Commission; and

WHEREAS, following the veteran's recovery at Mather, Smith and Zelinsky sought to have the veteran undergo counseling and treatment for PTS-related addictions. They enlisted the help of LCSW Iisha Toombs of Sacramento VA Medical Center Mather who arranged for the veteran to be admitted directly from the hospital into recovery. Although the veteran refused, Ms. Toombs did not give up; she made it possible for the vet to enter a recovery program following the vet's return to Placerville. Ms. Toombs' tireless efforts were an example of compassionate professionalism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado does hereby recognize and commend the indefatigable care that was provided to the combat medic veteran, which reflects highly on all involved and the organizations they represent.

Passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held this 16th day of March 2021.

Attest:

Kim Dawson
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

John Hidahl, Chair, Board of Supervisors