



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF MAYOR IVY R. TAYLOR
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

TO: City Manager Sheryl Sculley

FROM: Mayor Ivy R. Taylor *INT*

COPIES TO: Andy Segovia, City Attorney; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; John Peterek, City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: Hidden Heroes City Resolution

DATE: April 12, 2017

Last July, Senator Elizabeth Dole wrote to invite me to join her Foundation and its national partners to create a local network supporting the Hidden Heroes campaign. To officially launch these efforts I would like to offer a resolution declaring San Antonio a Hidden Heroes City, and would like to place this on item the next available Governance Committee agenda. As a part of the effort the City, through the Office of Military Affairs, shall seek to identify military and veteran caregivers residing in our City, maintain a register of caregivers, and continually update the register to create supportive environments and opportunities for assistance.

The Senator created the Elizabeth Dole Foundation after she saw firsthand the enormous challenges facing those who care for our nation's wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans. The Foundation commissioned an evidence-based RAND study, which defined, quantified and assessed the circumstances of military caregivers. The study identified challenges and difficulties faced by caregivers. It pointed to the areas of greatest need in the short term and made predictions for the long term. Based on those findings, Senator Dole termed the status of the nation's military caregivers "a societal crisis that requires a national response."

Since the release of the RAND study, the Foundation has recruited and trained caregivers in every state and Puerto Rico to serve as advisers and advocates, championed legislation on Capitol Hill, inspired reforms at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and built a National Coalition of more than 300 organizations from every sector that are developing resources for caregivers. Last year the Elizabeth Dole Foundation launched the Hidden Heroes campaign chaired by Tom Hanks, designed to serve as the catalyst for an even greater national response. The heart of the campaign will be the Hidden Heroes Cities - a nationwide network of cities committed to unifying their existing support and resources, and adding others that are needed, in order to provide the critically needed support for their city's military and veteran caregivers.

The City through the Office of Military Affairs will create a Steering Committee within the Veteran Advisory Commission (VAC) to serve as a hub and organizing force for a citywide effort to promote awareness and to offer support and assistance to military caregivers and their families. The point of contact for the steering committee is the Chairman of the Veterans Advisory Commission and his designated Co-Chair.

The Steering Committee will bring together those organizations with programs already assisting military caregivers, organizations with programs supporting service members that can be expanded to include support for their caregivers, and organizations that can create additional programs to provide missing or needed services.

Once the resolution is signed our steering committee will identify military caregivers, determine their needs, and serve as a hub that will create city-wide awareness and a support network for these "Hidden Heroes".

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ruben Lizalde in my office at (210) 207-7083 or ruben.lizalde@sanantonio.gov.