

T. 8.a.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION ) IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING THAT "LANE COUNTY CARES  
) FOR OUR RETURNING NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE MEMBERS,  
) VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES" AND CALLS UPON ALL  
) CITIZENS TO MAKE OURS A WELCOMING COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, 2700 service members of the Oregon National Guard will be returning to Oregon and Washington in April and May of 2010; and

WHEREAS, approximately 400 of them will be returning to communities and homes in Lane County; and

WHEREAS, the time from leaving combat zones to being back in community is approximately 10 days which has proven not to be enough time for the soldier to decompress after a combat tour; and,

WHEREAS, Oregon National Guard service members do not have an active duty military home base to provide an environment that will support and nurture reintegration into the community; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has demonstrated, through its Lane County Veterans Services Office, a commitment to supporting veterans; and,

WHEREAS, there are limited resources available and more resources need to be developed; and,

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Advisory/Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee has initiated a community education campaign entitled **Lane County Cares** to assist in supporting reintegration of our citizen soldiers; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental elements of military culture include service to country, protecting others, courage, loyalty and comradeship – qualities that need to be reciprocated to our returning service members by the communities in which they live; and,

WHEREAS, eighty percent of veterans who come home do successfully achieve reintegration; and,

WHEREAS, Lane County citizens have the resources, skills and compassion to create and enhance communities that are welcoming and supportive of our returning service members;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Lane County Board of County Commissioners proclaim that Lane County respects the sacrifices made by our returning service members, veterans and their families; recognizes the courage required to ask for help when it is needed; honors them as participating county citizens; and, calls upon all citizens to make ours a welcoming community by educating ourselves about the needs of our service member and veteran families, learning how to provide appropriate support and seeking opportunities to demonstrate that "**Lane County Cares**" about our mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters who are active-duty and returning service members, veterans and their families.

Effective date: this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010.

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William A. Fleenor, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners