OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

NOVEMBER 2026

WHEREAS, the residents of Buncombe County have great respect, admiration, and gratitude for all of the people who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed forces; and,

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the people who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our residents; and,

WHEREAS, Buncombe County seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and,

WHEREAS, Buncombe County Veterans Services offers assistance to local veterans including life insurance, home loans, healthcare, vocational rehabilitation and training, disability benefits, and more; and,

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court assists justice-involved veterans through a voluntary, court-supervised intensive treatment court that has supported hundreds of veterans achieve stability and healing since it was established in 2015; and,

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is home to the Charles George VA Medical Center, which provides high-quality care for veterans across the region; and,

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than $52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually and an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and,

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and,

WHEREAS, Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and,

WHEREAS, Buncombe County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States Military Personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that with the designation as a **Green Light for Veterans County**, Buncombe County hereby declares Veterans Day, November 11, 2026, and the weeks of November, a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners proclaims recognition of **Operation Green Light for Veterans**, lighting the courthouse and Health and Human Services building green in its honor from November 4 - 11, and encourages its residents in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.

This 5th day of November, 2026.

Amanda Edwards, Chair
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners