

WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQ

#7

Date: May 10, 2016

Weekly Agenda Date: May 17, 2016

DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN: <u>Supervisor Jeremy Taylor</u>		
SUBJECT: <b>Good News Report</b>		
<b>ACTION REQUIRED:</b>		
Approve Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/>	Approve Resolution <input type="checkbox"/>	Approve Motion <input type="checkbox"/>
Give Direction <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Informational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attachments <input type="checkbox"/>

**WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:** Good News Report: Support of the Guard and Reserve

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** This is a reminder of Woodbury County's noble commitment to the Guard and Reserve the last 11 years, which continues today.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2005, then Chairman George Boykin signed a Statement for the Guard and Reserve recognizing that "the National Guard and Reserve are essential to the strength of our nation and the well-being of our communities" and then outlying four commitments of Woodbury County. On April 26, we received an ESGR Award for our Secondary Roads department because of Pete McDermott.

While the City of Sioux City was recently congratulated for being a Home Base Iowa Community, Woodbury County continues to honor the ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) with this statement and the four underlying commitments (please see attached). I also wanted to share an under-very brief presentation on how your support helped me in training recently.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None

**RECOMMENDATION:** Information only.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** None.

### ***Recent Training Opportunity Appreciation***

I also wanted to share briefly an appreciation for fellow supervisors while attending Combat Medical Ministry. Thank you to Acting Chairman Matthew Ung for taking over for two weeks. This training allowed me to work in the trauma unit of one of the world's best trauma centers, Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) as a chaplain to "nurture the living, comfort the wounded, and honor the dead." Some highlights of the training were medical ethics studies, reaffirmation of the Geneva Convention for medical and non-combatant personnel, learning deeper issues of Soldiers with moral injury, PTSD, and grief/loss. In addition to practical field exercises and work as a unit ministry team, we visited the morgue, Combat Support Field Hospital, Warrior and Family Support Center, and the Center for the Intrepid where amputees do the hard things to get back to life or even active duty.

The men and women who sacrifice for our country are incredible and support of communities is vital. In Military City, USA (Bexar County's San Antonio has one of the highest percentage population of active duty and veterans), I witnessed a place for Wounded Warriors where the waiting list for volunteers numbers over 200! There, Gary Sinise's Lieutenant Dan Band plays, and restaurants are signed up weeks and weeks out to come and give back to these heroes. It is great to know from Sioux City (Guard/Reserve) to San Antonio (Active Component), we are supportive as a country.

Our nation has been at war for nearly 15 years. The Warrior and Family Support Center allows families to help heal alongside their loved one whether by cooking, gardening, golfing, and being "at home." Instead of government cubicles, the center is decked out with Hill Texas Furniture, Star Wars cutouts, a designer kitchen, a gaming room; it truly speaks the words "care," "home," and "personal attention" through everything that they do in support of these heroes and their families.

### ***Warrior and Family Support Center***

Through generous donations and the Returning Heroes Home Project, on 1 Dec 2008, the Warrior and Family Support Center moved from the 1,200 square foot room in the Powless Guest House to a 12,500 square foot building. The Returning Heroes Home Project designed the new Warrior and Family Support Center with a "living room" environment, to provide all the comforts of home while the Wounded Warriors and their Families are so far away from their home. This dedicated building includes a large social gathering area, kitchen facilities, a dining room, a learning facility for computerized training, a private counseling room, a business center with high speed internet access, a game room, and large open front and back porch areas. It was designed with Wounded Warriors' requirements in mind - fully wheelchair-accessible, with an atmosphere that encourages healing. It retains the same "closeness" that was found in the previous center that allowed Wounded Warriors and their Families to be in close contact with each other. In this setting, Wounded Warriors and Families are able to comfort and support each other by drawing upon their shared experiences for strength and understanding. The WFSC schedules over 100 activities each month. The Wounded Warriors and their Family Members have the opportunity to attend sporting events, movies, plays at the Majestic Theatre, concerts, the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, Fiesta, shopping trips, luncheons and dinners, Bingo, fishing trips, and much more. All events and trips are free of charge.

### ***The Center for the Intrepid***

The attached film is a 2 minute clip.



# STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE GUARD AND RESERVE



## COUNTY OF WOODBURY

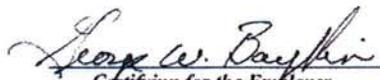
We recognize the National Guard and Reserve as essential to the strength of our nation and the well-being of our communities.

In the highest American tradition, the patriotic men and women of the Guard and Reserve serve voluntarily in an honorable and vital profession. They train to respond to their community and their country in time of need. They deserve the support of every segment of our society.

If these volunteer forces are to continue to serve our nation, increased public understanding is required of the essential role of the Guard and Reserve in preserving our national security. Their members must have the cooperation of all American employers in encouraging employee participation in Guard and Reserve.

### Therefore, we join other employers in pledging that:

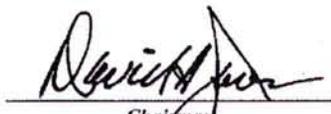
1. Employment will not be denied because of service in the Guard or Reserve;
2. Employee job and career opportunities will not be limited or reduced because of service in the Guard or Reserve;
3. Employees will be granted leaves of absence for military service in the Guard or Reserve, consistent with existing laws, without sacrifice of vacation; and
4. This agreement and its resultant policies will be made known throughout our organization.

  
Certifying for the Employer

**George W. Boykin**  
Print Name

**May 17, 2005**

Date

  
Chairman  
National Committee for Employer  
Support of the Guard and Reserve

  
Secretary of Defense

