



WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is home to 70,000 veterans who have served, or are currently serving, in the Armed Forces of the United States, defending and preserving our freedoms and way of life at great risk and sacrifice to themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, the following units, or members of these units located in Milwaukee County, have been activated for the War on Terror: 32d Military Police Company, Battery B 1-126th Field Artillery Battalion, 1-121st Field Artillery Battalion (all Army National Guard); 128th Air Refueling Wing (Air National Guard); 440th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve); Fox Company (Marine Corps Reserve); US Naval Reserve Center Milwaukee; 961st Engineer Battalion, 452d Combat Support Hospital, 521st Maintenance Battalion, 1-334th Reception Battalion (all Army Reserve); and the US Coast Guard Reserve Group Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County residents and members of the following units located outside of Milwaukee County have been activated for the War on Terror: 1-128th Infantry Battalion, 2-128th Infantry Battalion, 2-127th Infantry Battalion, 1-120th Field Artillery Battalion (all Army National Guard); and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is the site of one of the three original federal Soldier's Homes, founded by the women and citizens of this community in 1864 as a rest and recuperation facility for disabled Civil War soldiers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee will host the 27th National Veterans Wheelchair Games during the week of July 18-24, 2007, with events planned at various locations throughout Milwaukee County; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County's Veterans Park on Lake Michigan has been chosen as the site for the commissioning of the USS Freedom, the U.S. Navy's first-in-its-class littoral combat ship, an event to take place in the summer of 2007; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the various municipalities of Milwaukee County honor their veterans each year with parades on Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and Veterans Day; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is home to Reclaiming Our Heritage days on the weekend after Memorial Day each year, an event held in the Historic District of the VA Grounds, with re-enactors, parades, military campsites, demonstrations and displays to educate and entertain visitors; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County annually hosts Operation Freedom – which is a tribute to members of the Armed Forces, their families and veterans and their families the Milwaukee County Zoo during the 4th of July weekend; now, therefore,

I, *SCOTT WALKER*, County Executive of Milwaukee County, do hereby proclaim 2007 to be the

Armed Forces and Veterans Year

throughout Milwaukee County, and in recognition of this designation, I encourage elected officials in Milwaukee County to honor members of the Armed Forces and veterans throughout the year in public meetings and ceremonies, in proclamations and speeches, and further encourage citizens to actively support the many events and institutions in the area supporting members of the Armed Forces and veterans.