



Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1933, several Veterans of Foreign Wars gathered and decided to charter a Belleville V.F.W. Post; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 1934, the charter Members were successful, and Belleville V.F.W. Post 1739 was created; and

WHEREAS, the history of the VFW dates back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection, founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service; and

WHEREAS, many veterans arrived home wounded or ill and there was no medical care or veterans' pension for them at that time. Some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations with what would become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; and

WHEREAS, early chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado, and Pennsylvania, and the movement quickly gained momentum. By 1915, membership grew to 5,000, and by 1936, membership was nearly 200,000; and

WHEREAS, as the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.4 million Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the VFW is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the VFW is to ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country; and

WHEREAS, today, the Belleville V.F.W. Post 1739 is one of 5,667 VFW Posts worldwide.

Pride in the Past . . . Promise for the Future
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patty Gregory, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois, do hereby recognize and congratulate the Belleville V.F.W. Post 1739 on their 90th Anniversary.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed, this 5th day of February, 2024.

Patty Gregory
Patty Gregory, Mayor

Dated this 5th day of February, 2024