



CITY OF BELLINGHAM  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SETH FLEETWOOD

## MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining our freedoms and way of life; and

**WHEREAS**, tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century and hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, our state is home to more than 544,000 veterans, 60,000 Active Duty military, 18,000 National Guard and Reserves and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bellingham area is home to more than 13,000 veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, our veterans understand the important task before the American service men and women now keeping watch; and

**WHEREAS**, over 1.1 million veterans live below the poverty level and there are tens of thousands of homeless veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that up to 30% of post-Vietnam veterans have had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, veteran suicide rates are twice that of the civilian population.

**WHEREAS**, our veterans are brave and selfless individuals who, when duty called, willingly put themselves in harm's way to defend the lives and liberty of others; and

**WHEREAS**, their abiding patriotism and enduring devotion to the ideals on which the United States is founded can never fail to inspire us; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, DO I**, Seth Fleetwood, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, proclaim November 11, 2020 as

### VETERAN'S DAY

in the City of Bellingham, Washington and encourage all residents in our City to reach out to all veterans, ask them how they are doing and acknowledge and honor their contributions and sacrifices that they have made to the principles of democracy, individual freedom, and human rights and offer assistance to veterans in need.



Signed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor  
City of Bellingham