



BROKEN ARROW

Where opportunity lives

PROCLAMATION

City of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

WHEREAS, the Patriot Guard Riders (PGR) emerged from long-standing traditions of veterans and motorcycle groups who have gathered at military funerals for decades to show honor, dignity, and respect to America's fallen heroes; and

WHEREAS, the nationwide movement known today as the Patriot Guard Riders began with Jeff "Twister" Brown, a Vietnam-era United States Air Force veteran and proud resident of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, after participating in the "Run For The Wall" and the Rolling Thunder Memorial Day events in Washington, D.C.—experiences that profoundly reconnected him with his identity as a veteran—Jeff Brown became involved in standing guard at military funerals targeted by protest groups, ensuring that grieving families could honor their fallen loved ones with dignity; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2005, while riding to honor PFC David Martin in Edmond, Oklahoma, Jeff Brown recognized the need for an organized method to alert riders of upcoming military funerals requiring support, sparking the idea that would become the Patriot Guard Riders; and

WHEREAS, that same night, Jeff Brown emailed veterans and motorcycle groups across the nation, resulting in an overwhelming and immediate response—volunteers stepped forward to build a communication network, web operations began, and a national organizational structure with state captains quickly emerged; and

WHEREAS, within the first year, the Patriot Guard Riders grew from a grassroots effort born in Broken Arrow into a national movement of more than 70,000 members, united in their mission to protect the sanctity of military funerals and honor the sacrifices of America's service members; and

WHEREAS, today the Patriot Guard Riders number nearly 400,000 volunteers across the United States, serving as a powerful symbol of unity, patriotism, and unwavering respect for those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Brown, together with Bonnie Brown, has demonstrated exceptional civic dedication and compassion, contributing immeasurably to the founding, growth, and noble mission of the Patriot Guard Riders; and

WHEREAS, the City of Broken Arrow honors residents whose actions bring pride, unity, and distinction to the community and the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, does hereby recognize and commend Jeff "Twister" Brown and Bonnie Brown for their extraordinary leadership, patriotism, and service to veterans and their families across the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in gratitude for their profound contributions and in recognition of the national impact of their efforts that began here in our community, the City of Broken Arrow hereby honors Jeff and Bonnie Brown with a Key to the City.

Mayor Debra Wimpee
City of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma