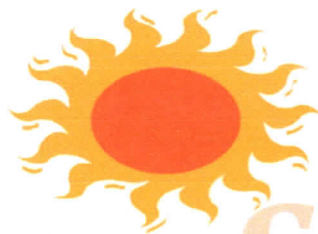




ENTERED



# City of Bevil Oaks

## PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS*, Blinded veterans and their families across the United States are helping to organize local events in their respective regions this spring to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) on March 28, 1945.

*WHEREAS*, The milestone anniversary remembers the approximately 100 young World War II veterans who had lost their sight in combat and gathered in an early morning meeting at Avon Old Farms Army Convalescent Hospital for the purpose of organizing themselves to help one another.

*WHEREAS*, Public Law 111-156, enacted in March 2010 by the 111th Congress in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate with two separate resolutions, designated March 28 each year going forward as National Blinded Veterans Day in recognition of BVA's efforts to promote the establishment and improvement of rehabilitation services and benefits for America's blinded veterans.

*WHEREAS*, General Omar Bradley, VA Administrator in the late 1940s, appointed BVA to be the first official representative for blinded veterans for the filing of claims and appeals to VA, making it only the eighth Veterans Service Organization to receive such authorization. In 1958, BVA was chartered by the U.S. Congress to be the exclusive voice for blinded veterans with VA and in annual testimony on Capitol Hill.

*WHEREAS*, From its early beginnings, BVA encouraged the blinded veterans it served "to take their rightful place in the community with their fellow men and work with them toward the creation of a peaceful world." The organization has continued in its advocacy efforts whereby war blinded veterans and those who lose their sight due to disease or age-related causes can regain independence, confidence, and self-esteem through rehabilitation and training.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I*, Rebecca M. Ford, Mayor of the City of Bevil Oaks, Texas, along with the City Council, do proclaim March 28, 2021 as Blind Veterans Day in the City of Bevil Oaks, Texas.

Approved this 21st. day of January 2021.

*Barbara Emmons*

Barbara Emmons, Secretary

*Rebecca M. Ford*

Rebecca M. Ford, Mayor