OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ALVIN BROWN
MAYOR

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November 5, 2012

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 2012 Week of Valor. On behalf of Jacksonville, it is an honor to work with numerous community partners to participate in this series of events celebrating the service and reflecting on the sacrifice of the brave men and women who have pledged their lives to protect us all. Thank you for taking part in this proud salute to the military and veterans community.

As mayor, I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to meet many of Jacksonville's military families. Nearly 25 percent of our city's residents have served in the United States' armed services, and the economic impact of the military community in Jacksonville is more than $12 billion, annually.

Upon taking office, I elevated the city's Military, Veterans and Disabled Services Department to cabinet level and appointed Rear Admiral (retired) Victor Guillory as director. My administration launched a "Jobs for Veterans" website, a public-private partnership with more than 100 participating companies and universities offering workforce information and jobs to help military members and their families transition to civilian life. We have also partnered with U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Erick Shinseki to secure a $1 million grant to carry out a shared goal of ending homelessness among veterans by 2015, all while continuing to work with the Department of Defense to ensure future support of and growth in Jacksonville's military operations.

The Week of Valor is a continuation of our service commitment to those who protect our freedom. From a veterans job fair to the Navy-Marine Corps Classic basketball game to a Veterans Day tribute parade, this week is dedicated to the men and women who have sacrificed so much and given so much of themselves for us. There is no better time than now to show them how thankful we are for their efforts, and I encourage you to attend as many Week of Valor events as possible.

I look forward to a memorable week, and I wish you a very enjoyable and rewarding experience in Jacksonville.

Sincerely,

Alvin Brown

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Mayor