

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Cpl. Matthew Bradford, a then Kentucky high school freshman, decided on September 11, 2001, to enlist in the military to serve and defend his country in response to heinous terrorist attacks that claimed thousands of American lives; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005 Bradford completed high school, joined the U.S. Marine Corps and, after graduating boot camp, was deployed to Haditha, Iraq, in September 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2007, Bradford was on patrol in Al Anbar province clearing an area of roadside bombs when he stepped on an improvised explosive device and suffered catastrophic damage to both legs and eyes, his right hand and intestines, leaving him a completely blind, double amputee and requiring him to spend eighteen months recovering after three weeks in a medically induced coma; and

**WHEREAS**, during the course of his recovery, Bradford learned to read Braille and work on a computer with the aid of special software, earning him the praise of high ranking officials including President George W. Bush; and

**WHEREAS**, Bradford was promoted from Lance Corporal to Corporal based on his tremendous leadership and, at the age of 23 on April 7, 2010, made U.S. Marine Corps history by becoming the first blind, double amputee to re-enlist; and

**WHEREAS**, his life of dedication, perseverance and resilience is an inspiration to all and especially to other wounded warriors as he has not allowed his injuries to sideline his desire to continue living life to its fullest tackling jet skiing, water skiing, rock climbing, surfing, scuba diving, and life's biggest adventure – that of loving husband and father.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, Mayor Carter M. Hendricks, Judge/Executive Steve Tribble, Mayor Kim McMillan, and Mayor Jim Durrett do hereby declare August 19, 2016 as

## *CPL. MATTHEW BRADFORD DAY*

on behalf of the citizens of the City of Hopkinsville and Christian County, Kentucky, and the City of Clarksville and Montgomery County, Tennessee.

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carter M. Hendricks, Mayor  
City of Hopkinsville, Kentucky



\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Tribble, Judge/Executive  
Christian County, Kentucky



\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim McMillan, Mayor  
City of Clarksville, Tennessee



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Durrett, Mayor  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

