WHEREAS, in Florida we take great pride in being the most veteran-friendly state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, with more than 1.5 million veterans living in Florida, this community makes up an important part of our state's identity; and

WHEREAS, Florida will always advocate for the needs of our military members and veterans, whose courage and countless sacrifices have ensured our country remains the land of the free; and

WHEREAS, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget further advocates for the needs of our veterans by securing funding for the start-up of two new state veteran nursing homes, veteran treatment courts, and veteran employment assistance; and

WHEREAS, to also ensure our active duty service members, and future veterans have the support of our legal community, Florida has issued the Governor's Initiative on Lawyers Assisting Warriors program (GI LAW), providing our men and women in uniform with free legal services from some of the best law firms in our state; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Hire a Veteran Day in Florida is to encourage businesses to recruit and hire veterans whose experienced skills, education, leadership, and dedication provide invaluable service to our state; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) directly administers the Jobs for Veterans State Grant in conjunction with various workforce development programs to promote and maximize the employment of Florida’s veteran population; and

WHEREAS, DEO’s partnership with CareerSource Florida’s network has helped nearly 4,000 veterans obtain employment this year; and

WHEREAS, businesses and organizations are encouraged to support the Hire a Veteran program, enabling veterans to achieve and exceed in their career goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing July 25, 2019, as Hire a Veteran Day in Florida.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 25th day of July, in the year two thousand nineteen.