

# PROCLAMATION



**WHEREAS,** Toys for Tots began in 1947 when Major Bill Hendricks, with the U. S. Marine Corp Forces Reserve, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to children; and,

**WHEREAS,** Major Hendricks' 1947 campaign was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots the next year, expanding it into a nationwide campaign. In 1948, Marine Corps Reserve conducted Toys for Tots campaigns at Marine Reserve Centers across the country. Since then, the United States Marine Corps have conducted successful nationwide campaigns during the holiday season each year. Their initial objective, which remains the hallmark of the program today, is to "*bring the joy of Christmas to America's less fortunate children*"; and,

**WHEREAS,** Toys for Tots plays an active role in the development of America's most valuable natural resource – her children; to help less fortunate children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas; to unite all members of local communities in a common cause for three months each year during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to better communities in the future; and,

**WHEREAS,** the members of Simpson-Hoggatt Detachment 984, Marine Corps League actively support the Toys for Tots organization in collection of toys from local businesses and organizations in the city of Lee's Summit and surrounding communities. In 2023, the Kansas City Toys For Tots served 273 organizations, 424 individual families, collected over 64,000 toys, and supported 44 Toys For Tots events. In 2024, they exceeded their totals by helping an additional 7,000 children.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, William A. Baird, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, do hereby proclaim December 2024 as

## ***TOYS FOR TOTS MONTH***

in recognition and appreciation of the U. S. Marine Corp Toys for Tots mission and to the Lee's Summit community and local organizations who support them.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, this 17th day of December 2024.

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***MAYOR WILLIAM A. BAIRD***