

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, with the exception of the State of Rhode Island, Arma, Kansas uniquely continues to celebrate V-J Day – Victory over Japan or Victory Day — signifying the end of World War II;

WHEREAS, more than 400,000 American soldiers died in World War II, with nearly 700,000 wounded. Among those who paid the ultimate sacrifice was Army Air Corp Staff Sgt. Lon M. Helm Jr. of Arma. He was declared Lost at Sea in October 1943 near Ascension Island in the southern Atlantic Ocean.

WHEREAS, three Arma families – the Kovacics, Kmetzs and Varsolonas – had the distinction of each sending five sons to serve in World War II with all 15 sons returning home from service. Those service members were: Frank, John, August, Henry and Bill Kovacic; Andrew, Victor, Frank, Paul and John Kmetz; and Sam, Paul, John, Charles and Frank Varsolona.

WHEREAS in January 1946, Lon Helm Jr. American Legion Post 182 was organized. The post spearheaded the first Arma V-J Homecoming celebration in August 1946, honoring World War II veterans returning home and those who died for American freedom;

WHEREAS for 75 consecutive years, the Lon Helm Jr. Post 182 American Legion and the Arma V-J Homecoming Committee conduct an annual August celebration to honor veterans and bring enjoyment to the community and region. Even during the pandemic in 2020, American Legion members marched and paid respects to the Roll of Honor veterans in downtown Arma to keep the tradition alive;

WHEREAS, Lon Helm Jr. Post 182 American Legion supports all veterans from every U.S. war and conflict.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim August 14th, 2021 as the

75th Arma V-J Homecoming

in Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 1st day of
August, A.D. 2021

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Handwritten signature of Laura Kelly in blue ink.

Secretary of State

Handwritten signature of the Assistant Secretary of State in blue ink.

Assistant Secretary of State

