Whereas, on March 28, the Blinded Veterans Association members will strive to promote national recognition for Public Law 111–156 enacted by the 111th session of Congress designating annually March 28 as National Blinded Veterans Day, for such efforts in improving the rehabilitation services, education, and benefits for our nation’s blinded veterans during more than seven decades of service, and;

Express special congratulations and recognition for the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) on its 72nd anniversary of representing blinded veterans and their families since March 28, 1945, when 100 World War II blinded service members at Avon “Old Farms” Army Convalescent Hospital in Connecticut, at 8:45 a.m., formed the Blinded Veterans Association, and;

Whereas, these individual blinded veterans were a cross-section of American WWII heroes and pioneers in establishing rehabilitation services for the war blinded, who not only shaped the rich history, philosophy, knowledge, and skills of education and rehabilitation of the blind, and who also gave us insight into current and future challenges, who shared their personal lives and showed us strategies to ensure that services for all blinded veterans remain unique, and specialized, and;

Whereas, General Omar Bradley, the Veterans Affairs Administrator, appointed BVA as the first official representative for blinded veterans for the filing of claims and appeals to VA, making it only the eighth veterans service organization to receive such authorization and the only Veterans Service Organization since then to receive its own day of recognition, and

Whereas, the Blinded Veterans Association was originally incorporated in New York State as a nonprofit association, then moved to Washington, DC in 1947, and

Whereas, the 58th Congress approved the Congressional Charter for recognizing BVA in 1958, and;

Whereas, from its early beginnings, BVA members demonstrated to all veterans with visual impairments how to take their rightful place in the community creating a world built upon equality and have continued to advocate for Veterans with combat related and natural visual impairments to regain independence, confidence, and self-esteem through rehabilitation training and assisting their fellow Veterans with visual impairments,

Whereas, many Americans recognize March 28 of each year as Blinded Veterans Day: Now, therefore, be it resolved, that I, Eric R. Greitens of Missouri, support the goals and ideals of Blinded Veterans Day; and

(1) express my appreciation for the efforts and the goals of the Blinded Veterans Association and its Missouri affiliate, the Heartland Regional Group, in improving blind rehabilitation services, education, and benefits for blinded veterans of the United States;

(2) call upon the people of Missouri to recognize and observe “Blinded Veterans Day” with appropriate programs and public activities.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That I, , Governor Eric R. Greitens, recognize and honor Blinded Veterans Day with the Heartland Regional Group of the Blinded Veterans Association to observe a day in its honor with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities for service dedicated to the restoration of independence to such blinded veterans.