WHEREAS, Blue Star Families seeks to empower military families by connecting them with their neighbors, individuals, and organizations to create vibrant communities of mutual support; and

WHEREAS, Blue Star Families annually designates the week beginning the last Saturday in September and concluding eight days thereafter as “Blue Star Welcome Week”; and

WHEREAS, during this week we recognize the more than 600,000 active-duty and transitioning military families who move to new communities each year; and

WHEREAS, the majority of these “permanent change of station” (PCS) moves occur during the summer; and

WHEREAS, only 30 percent of military family respondents, reported in the 2021 Military Family Lifestyle Survey, feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community; and

WHEREAS, a sense of belonging is important to the well-being and readiness of military families; and

WHEREAS, we commit to ensuring that military families feel a strong sense of belonging to their local civilian communities; and

WHEREAS, we express gratitude for the sacrifices made by service members, transitioning veterans, and their families; and

WHEREAS, we encourage civilians nationwide to welcome military-connected families into their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim September 24 - October 2, 2022, to be

BLUE STAR WELCOME WEEK

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 4th day of August, 2022.