

# roclamation

## CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

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**WHEREAS**, Officer John Hetland joined the Racine Police Department on February 28, 1995, bringing with him a deep sense of duty, compassion, and professionalism, and was highly respected for his commitment to serving and protecting the community; and

**WHEREAS**, John attended Racine public schools and graduated from Washington Park High School in 1988. He continued his education at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, where he earned a degree in Criminal Justice; and

**WHEREAS**, John loved spending time in the North Woods, hunting and fishing with his children, family, and friends. He enjoyed watching his children participate in sports and often helped coach their teams. John himself was an accomplished athlete, a devoted sports enthusiast, and an avid Packers and Brewers fan; and

**WHEREAS**, John was a leader among his brothers and sisters in law enforcement, serving as Vice President of the Racine Police Association and as a proud member of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 17, 2019, while off duty, Officer John Hetland was shot and killed while courageously intervening to protect others during an armed robbery; and

**WHEREAS**, although Officer John Hetland's physical presence is no longer with us, his legacy continues to inspire current and future generations, reminding our community of the extraordinary sacrifices made by those who serve and of the unbreakable bond between officers and the people they protect;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Cory Mason, Mayor of the City of Racine, do hereby formally honor and commemorate the life, service, and extraordinary legacy of Officer John Hetland, and offer our deepest sympathies to Officer Hetland's family and all who mourn his passing.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Racine to be affixed.

Accomplished at the City Hall  
this 16th<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026.

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Mayor