
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 780 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY RADER, R. BROWN, NEILSON, DEAN, SIMS, BIZZARRO,
READSHAW, ROTHMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHLEGEL CULVER, HAHN,
MILLARD, JAMES, SAYLOR, WARD, LONGIETTI, DONATUCCI, BARRAR,
RYAN, KAUFER, O'NEILL, SAINATO, BENNINGHOFF, CALTAGIRONE,
EVERETT, MENTZER, HILL-EVANS, SCHWEYER, J. McNEILL,
B. MILLER, WATSON, MURT, WHEELAND, GILLEN, BRADFORD AND
OBERLANDER, APRIL 2, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 2, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Vet 22 campaign and raising awareness for the
2 ongoing epidemic of veteran suicide and the war at home with
3 a symbolic color.

4 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs
5 (VA) released a report in 2013 providing that an average of 22
6 veterans commit suicide each day; and

7 WHEREAS, That average is the center of a campaign named Vet
8 22; and

9 WHEREAS, Vet 22 is a symbolic color which has the charter of
10 helping stem the tide of suicides among our military personnel
11 and veterans; and

12 WHEREAS, The color Vet 22 and Pantone color 395 are the same
13 color, a bright neon yellow; and

14 WHEREAS, Vet 22 derives its name from the startling statistic
15 that 22 United States veterans take their own lives each day and

1 is designed to enlist support in the fight against veteran
2 suicide; and

3 WHEREAS, From 2001 to 2014, the VA found that suicides among
4 United States adult civilians increased 23% while veteran
5 suicides increased 32%, making the risk of suicide 11% greater
6 for veterans than civilians; and

7 WHEREAS, The reason for the elevated suicide rate among
8 recent veterans remains unclear but is most likely attributed to
9 factors such as the lengthy wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and
10 added tours of duty; and

11 WHEREAS, Vet 22 was started as a national campaign by
12 Pennsylvania resident and Special Forces operator Mark Baylis
13 and the Pennsylvania-based VALOR Clinic Foundation; and

14 WHEREAS, Through helping veterans with personal battles with
15 posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury
16 (TBI), the founders' focus is to end veteran suicide in America;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Vet 22 was first blended in a small motorcycle paint
19 plant in Bangor; and

20 WHEREAS, This color offers an easy way to send a loud message
21 of compassion to the men and women who put their lives on the
22 line to protect and serve the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, The campaign also directs attention to the Veterans
24 Unstoppable Program on the VALOR Clinic website, which provides
25 a free resource for Pennsylvania veterans who are in need of
26 help and intends to end the stigma surrounding PTSD and TBI; and

27 WHEREAS, The Veterans Unstoppable Program is a Pennsylvania-
28 designed and implemented program to help veterans struggling
29 with PTSD and TBI to avoid suicide and homelessness; and

30 WHEREAS, There have been more than 300 participants in

Veterans Unstoppable and none have committed suicide; and

WHEREAS, A veterans retreat sanctuary for Pennsylvania is currently being designed by the Veterans Unstoppable Program to serve as a place of peace and healing for veterans; and

WHEREAS, The VALOR Clinic Foundation will also create a large-scale public memorial to honor veterans featuring the Memorial Mile with 50 yellow granite monuments memorializing the names of military and veteran war at-home casualties spread along its path at the retreat sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, The Memorial Mile honors all those who lost the battle at home; and

WHEREAS, The nation has failed to honor these casualties; and

WHEREAS, The Memorial Mile will serve as a national monument to the war at home and Vet 22 as a national call to action; and

WHEREAS, The parents of Specialist Wargo, who joined the United States Army after 9/11 and spent 10 months in Afghanistan before suffering with PTSD for eight years and taking his own life on May 20, 2013, will lead the way to the Memorial Mile; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Pennsylvania have a responsibility to help our brothers-in-arms and sisters-in-arms who suffer from the deepest, invisible wounds of war before these veterans believe their only choice is taking their own lives; and

WHEREAS, The health and well-being of the courageous men and women who served in uniform are of the highest priority for the House of Representatives; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and fully support the Vet 22 campaign as it continues to raise awareness about veteran suicide and works to ensure that our veterans and the families of all service members receive the

1 care, support and service in their greatest hour of need; and be
2 it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recommit to
4 providing timely access to high-quality, recovery-oriented
5 mental health care to veterans, like Veterans Unstoppable,
6 especially when they are in crisis; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
8 the VALOR Clinic Foundation.