
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1024 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, HOHENSTEIN, KINSEY, BOBACK, HOWARD,
KAUFFMAN, GALLOWAY, KULIK, MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG, BROWN,
MACKENZIE, RYAN, FREEMAN, DAVANZO, BERNSTINE, ULLMAN, MURT,
LONGIETTI, HILL-EVANS, BARRAR, McNEILL, POLINCHOCK, FLYNN,
COX, SONNEY, SCHMITT, KORTZ, READSHAW, WILLIAMS, PICKETT,
MADDEN, CALTAGIRONE, DELLOSO, SANCHEZ, ROWE, MENTZER,
SCHLEGEL CULVER, THOMAS, NEILSON, BURNS AND STRUZZI,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating November 22, 2020, as "Veterans Suicide Prevention
2 and Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On average, 22 veterans of the United States Armed
4 Forces commit suicide each day; and

5 WHEREAS, Of the 22 veterans who commit suicide each day, 14
6 of the suicides are committed by veterans who do not seek help
7 from the Veterans Health Administration; and

8 WHEREAS, Suicide rates among veterans are higher than the
9 general population, especially among women; and

10 WHEREAS, The majority of suicides committed by veterans are
11 caused by drug overdoses or poisoning; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and
13 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs of the
14 Commonwealth offer programs and work with outside organizations

1 to provide mental health care to our veterans; and

2 WHEREAS, Each Veterans Health Administration facility has
3 suicide prevention coordinators onsite to support veterans in
4 times of crisis; and

5 WHEREAS, As citizens of this Commonwealth, we all need to be
6 more vigilant of the warning signs that a veteran may be
7 suicidal, including, but not limited to, feelings of
8 hopelessness, anxiety, agitation and mood swings; and

9 WHEREAS, Warning signs that require immediate attention
10 include any of the following:

11 (1) Thinking about hurting or killing oneself.

12 (2) Looking for ways to die.

13 (3) Talking about death, dying or suicide.

14 (4) Self-destructive or risk-taking behavior, especially
15 when the behavior includes drugs, alcohol or weapons;

16 and

17 WHEREAS, Veterans, family members and care providers can
18 initiate a free and confidential conversation with a Veterans
19 Health Administration provider by calling the Veterans Crisis
20 Line at 1-800-273-8255; and

21 WHEREAS, Veterans or family members of veterans can chat
22 online with a Veterans Health Administration provider via the
23 publicly accessible Internet website
24 veteranscrisisline.net/chat; and

25 WHEREAS, Veterans or family members of veterans can send a
26 text message to 838255 to connect to a Veterans Health
27 Administration provider; and

28 WHEREAS, We all need to do our part to help those who served
29 our nation so bravely in the United States Armed Forces;
30 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
2 November 22, 2020, as "Veterans Suicide Prevention and Awareness
3 Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That on November 22, 2020, we honor the memories of
5 our 22 fallen veterans who leave us each day.