

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
16 is designed to enlist support in the fight against veteran
17 suicide; and

18 WHEREAS, From 2001 to 2014, the VA found suicides among

1 United States adult civilians increased 23% while veteran
2 suicides increased 32%, making the risk of suicide 11% greater
3 for veterans than civilians; and

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

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

11 WHEREAS, Because of helping veterans through personal battles
12 with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain
13 injury (TBI), the founders' focus is to end veteran suicide in
14 America; and

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, There have been more than 300 participants in
28 Veterans Unstoppable and none have committed suicide; and

29 WHEREAS, A veterans retreat sanctuary for Pennsylvania is
30 currently being designed by the Veterans Unstoppable Program to

1 serve as a place of peace and healing for veterans; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
25 fully support the Vet 22 campaign as it continues to raise
26 awareness about veteran suicide and works to ensure that our
27 veterans and the families of all service members receive the
28 care, support and service in their greatest hour of need; and be
29 it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recommit to

1 providing timely access to high-quality, recovery-oriented
2 mental health care to veterans, like Veterans Unstoppable,
3 especially when they are in crisis; and be it further
4 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
5 the VALOR Clinic Foundation.