
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 608 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, SONNEY, BARRAR, HILL-EVANS, JONES,
KOSIEROWSKI, FREEMAN, MILLARD, DELLOSO, THOMAS, LONGIETTI,
O'NEAL, RYAN, KINSEY, SHUSTERMAN, McNEILL, ROTHMAN, MIHALEK,
MACKENZIE, BURNS, T. DAVIS, JAMES, SCHLOSSBERG, DIGIROLAMO,
BERNSTINE, SANCHEZ, COX, KORTZ, CIRESI, DAY, WILLIAMS, BROWN,
MURT, MENTZER, KENYATTA, READSHAW, STRUZZI, McCLINTON,
B. MILLER, STAATS, JOZWIAK AND DEASY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating November 22, 2019, 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
15 to provide mental health care to our veterans; and

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

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

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

10 (1) Thinking about hurting or killing oneself.

11 (2) Looking for ways to die.

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

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

15 and

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

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

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

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

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate

1 November 22, 2019, as "Veterans Suicide Prevention and Awareness
2 Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further
3 RESOLVED, That on November 22, 2019, we honor the memories of
4 our 22 fallen veterans who leave us each day.