

A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of September 2024 as "Military Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Current studies confirm a high suicide rate among United States military veterans; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is a national public health issue among veterans, nonveteran adults and United States adults; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are 1.5 times more likely to die by suicide than those who have never served in the military; and

WHEREAS, The risk factor for female veterans is 2.2 times higher; and WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, we lose nearly 250

veterans per year by suicide; and

WHEREAS, The reason for the elevated suicide rate among veterans may be attributed to use of lethal means to

complete suicide and contributing factors of high exposure to trauma, stress, burnout, addiction, isolation,

unemployment, homelessness, loneliness and difficulties reintegrating into civilian life; and

WHEREAS, Officials at the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs have responded to the veteran suicide crisis by leading the Pennsylvania Governor's and Mayor's Challenges to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members,

Veterans, and their Families, and coordinate concerted efforts to expand their community outreach efforts; and

WHEREAS, Major General Schindler, the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, originated the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs motto to be "Together We Serve," signifying the military family serves together and military service impacts everyone associated with its service; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of September 2024 as "Military Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate fully support the bipartisan actions of the 118th Congress and the United States

Department of Veterans Affairs as they continue to work together to improve the needed support for our veterans and their families.