

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

Whereas, suicide is a serious and tragic public health problem that can be prevented through increased intervention, awareness, resources, and proper treatment; and

Whereas, suicide can affect all Americans, but data shows that active duty service members and veterans die by suicide at much higher rates than the civilian population and that veteran suicide rates in Missouri are significantly higher than the national average; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Veteran Affairs published that an estimated 22 veterans die by suicide every day; and

Whereas, this body must recognize that this tragic epidemic is taking the lives of those who have most heavily carried the burden of protecting and serving their country; and

Whereas, in an effort to prevent suicides, the Buddy Check 22 program was created to support veterans by encouraging people to call and check in with their "buddies" who are veterans on the 22nd day of each month; and

Whereas, this body recognizes that having a support system and social connectedness promotes good mental health and reduces risk of suicide; and

Whereas, a check-in allows veterans to know they are cared for and that help is available during a mental health crisis or in times of need; and

Whereas, this body endeavors to promote awareness of the problem of suicide facing military personnel, and encourages active duty service members, veterans, service providers, advocates, and the people of the State of Missouri to work together to check in on veterans and to continue to educate the public on how to recognize the warning signs and improve the outreach to, and treatment of, individuals at risk for suicide:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby designate the 22nd day of each month as Buddy Check 22 Day in Missouri to promote education and awareness of the problem of suicide facing military personnel; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution shall be known and may be cited as "Veteran Suicide Prevention Resolution".