

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DOUBLE TREE HOTEL, MOON TWP., PENNSYLVANIA  
JANUARY 18-19, 2020**

Resolution No. 1113

Submitted by: Robert John  
Department Commander

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- WHEREAS, the veteran suicide rate in Pennsylvania is substantially higher than the overall suicide rates in our state and for the nation; and
- WHEREAS, suicide has many causes and data on this tragedy is not collected in a uniform way, as each County Coroner has their own way of documenting this data; and
- WHEREAS, this data could be extremely useful to health care professionals, families, friends or the general public in recognizing potential indicators that could save a veteran's life; and
- WHEREAS, while there is no one thing that can eliminate suicide, the more we can understand the reasons and the indicators that lead up to a veteran taking their own life, the better the likelihood it may be prevented in someone contemplating the act; and
- WHEREAS, this uniform data collection would not be a costly measure to enact and if the effort saves one life, it would be a success; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania American Legion Department Executive Committee, meeting at the DoubleTree Hotel, Moon Twp., Pennsylvania, January 18 - 19, 2020, call upon the Commonwealth General Assembly to enact legislation mandating that all Pennsylvania County Coroners/Medical Examiners shall complete a standardized questionnaire in all deaths determined to be suicide; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that all data collected is to be compiled so as to add yet another tool in veteran suicide prevention efforts; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of both the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate for their immediate action; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf.

APPROVED   X   REJECTED        REFERRED        CONSOLIDATED        FILED