



This is an article from The Brunswick News posted on April 22, 2020.

Michele Ladd is reaching out to all Active Duty Service Members and Veterans that need the help that so many deserve. The mission of National Veteran Resources is “Never Give Up Hope or Faith”

Initiative aims to stop Veteran Suicides

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Michele Ladd, of St. Mary's, tours the nation in her RV to create awareness of suicide among Veterans.

Michele Ladd has seen how combat can impact a person after her oldest son returned from a second tour of duty in Iraq with his Marine Corps unit.

“He was not himself,” she said. “He’s had a tough time. He’s got those invisible wounds.”

Ladd realized there are many other Veterans like her son who are struggling physically and psychologically with their combat and Military experiences, so she decided to go on the road to create more awareness about how to help Veterans.

She owns a large RV wrapped in the American Flag with portraits of Veterans from all eras and branches of service. She has spent more than 80 percent of her time on the road, where she has logged more than 65,000 miles in the past three years visiting American Legion chapters, Veteran organizations, and support groups. Her goal is to spread the message about available resources for PTSD, suicide prevention, mental health, and addiction recovery.

She has driven as far as California to meet with Veterans, and she has been recording their experiences. She has also met mothers who lost their sons to suicide after they returned home.

Ladd said she plans to hit the road once the COVID-19 social distancing restrictions are lifted. She plans to drive through Florida before eventually ending up in Rochester, N.Y., where she began her efforts to support veterans with the initiative Operation 22 to ZERO. The name comes from the fact that 22 Veterans die by suicide every day, and the goal is to reduce that number to zero.

By design, Ladd said she has kept a low profile since moving to St. Mary’s three years ago. But with the high number of Veterans in the region, that is going to change soon.

“I’m ready to start getting more involved in our community,” she said. “It’s a tribute to our veterans.”

Got Your Six Chatline

A service of National Veteran Resources, connecting Active Duty Military, Veterans and First Responders with others for emotional support and other services via web chat or phone call.

If you need someone to talk to or you know someone that is isolated and feeling anxiety and depression, please call 888-562-5552. We have someone to speak with Military, Spouses, EMT’s, Paramedics, Police Officers, Firefighters and Veterans. DON’T feel that you must deal with this on your own, especially in these uncertain times. Everyone is not certain of what is happening and when this pandemic will end.

You are not alone!

[Http://nationalveteranresources.com](http://nationalveteranresources.com)

Operation 22 to ZERO getting ready for our next tour

We hope to leave by Saturday May 16th on a more than 4,000 mile trip that will take up to 4 months to complete.

Our stops include visits to American Legions State Headquarters in at least 5 states, visits to Veterans, Gold Star Mothers, Veteran Business Owners and companies that support Service Members, Veterans and their families.

We will be seeking the best resources in education, job placement, business ownership, PTSD clinics and so much more.

This is the initial map of our trip and the stops in the first 2 weeks. There will be more added in the next few days.

Atlanta, GA
Blairsville, GA
Columbia, SC
Wormleysburg, PA
Rochester, NY
Syracuse, NY
Buffalo, NY
Albany, NY

Also, dear friends, we thank you all for the generous donations on our Gofundme campaign.

Thank you all for your love and support.

Be safe

National Veteran Resources Team