

September 5, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The undersigned organizations and individuals express their support for “National Warrior Call Day” on November 12, 2023. Warrior Call asks Americans to make a call to a veteran or servicemember and connect them with support if they need it, because isolation often is a precursor to suicidal ideation.

While we believe consistent engagement is essential, a day of action, on the heels of Veterans Day, can have an impact. We understand that one call can truly save a life.

Complementary to programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs and some Veteran Service Organizations, National Warrior Call Day is a grassroots advocacy campaign contingent only on personal engagement. Far more emphasis must be placed on reaching those veterans and servicemembers who do not raise their hands, who are suffering “invisible wounds” in silence, whose physical or psychological injuries have left them perilously disconnected from others and who do not avail themselves of services. National Warrior Call Day highlights that pressing need, which is as clear as ever.

According to the most recent data from the Department of Veterans Affairs, 6,146 veterans died by suicide in 2020. The unadjusted rate of suicide among U.S. veterans was 31.7 suicide deaths per 100,000, compared to 16.1 per 100,000 for civilians. After adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide was 57% higher for veterans than for non-veteran adults. In the same year, suicide was the 13th leading cause of death among veterans overall, and it was the second leading cause of death among veterans under age 45.

In 2021, 519 current U.S. service members died by suicide with young, enlisted male service members at greatest risk. The Pentagon found that the suicide rates for active-duty service members have gradually increased since 2011, although the 2021 rate is lower than in 2020.

Warrior Call is supported broadly, including on a bipartisan and bicameral basis in the U.S. Congress ([S. Res. 208](#); [H. Res. 535](#)). We are pleased to see continued engagement from policymakers and commit to doing our part to advocate for increased communication with the brave men and women who served this nation. In doing so, we ask for all Americans to stand up and do so too.

Supporting Organizations

America’s Warrior Partnership

AMVETS

Blue Star Families

Boulder Crest Foundation

Burn Pits 360

Caregivers on the Homefront

Check A Vet

Cohen Veterans Network

Concerned Veterans for America

David R. Metcalf Invisible Wounds Foundation

Easterseals

Fleet Reserve Association

Goodwill Industries International, Inc.

Home Base

Hope For The Warriors

Modern Military Association of America

National Association of Counties (NACo)

Objective Zero Foundation

Psycharmor

PTSD Foundation of America

Service Women's Action Network

The Charlie Daniels Journey Home Project

Troops First Foundation

Turn22to0

Vets4Warriors

Vietnam Veterans of America

Warrior Call

Wounded Warrior Project

Former Secretaries of Veterans Affairs

Anthony Principi, 4th United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Jim Nicholson, 5th United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs

James Peake, 6th United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Eric Shinseki, 7th United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Bob McDonald, 8th United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs

David Shulkin, 9th United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Robert Wilkie, 10th United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs