

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO SAVE LIVES AND
ENACT "NATIONAL WARRIOR CALL DAY"**

Sept. 14, 2022

Dear Members of Congress:

As former service members who have received the Medal of Honor, we are writing you on behalf of our fellow team members who may be dangerously disconnected and close to the brink of suicide. We are writing to ask you to support a national effort to connect with these brave Americans and steer them to resources.

Senate lawmakers have introduced a congressional resolution ([S.Res. 754](#)) to declare the Sunday after Veterans Day "National Warrior Call Day." This year, the day of action falls on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022. We ask that members of the Senate adopt this bipartisan resolution – which does not create a new federal program nor cost taxpayers any money.

The effort is supported by leading veteran organizations, current and former military officials, all living former VA secretaries and a host of public policy organizations.

We understand firsthand the challenges that servicemembers and veterans face and the need for their peers, friends and family to lift them up.

With its simple mission of imploring all Americans to connect with someone who has worn or is currently wearing the uniform and let them know they care – National Warrior Call Day can foster greater connectivity. And greater connection can save lives. While focused on the specific day of action, supporters implore those serving or who have served to carry out the Warrior Call mission of connectivity every day.

This effort comes at an important time, after the rapid unraveling of Afghanistan has spurred anguish and frustration among the 700,000 service members who served there. It also comes as the suicide rate for active-duty forces has reached its highest level.

National Warrior Call Day is designed to address the pressing challenge of servicemember and veteran suicide. And those trends are alarming:

- The suicide rate for active-duty Army soldiers last year was the highest it has been in nearly a century, Pentagon figures show.
- More U.S. veterans have died by suicide in the last 10 years than service members who died from combat in Vietnam.
- After adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide is far higher than the rate among all United States adults.

- A large segment of those who are disconnected and die by suicide may have undiagnosed brain injuries from their service that may present as mental illness but require an entirely different approach.

As the resolution notes, roughly two-thirds of veterans who take their own lives have had no contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs, highlighting the urgent need for greater connection. National Warrior Call Day can help connect vets with each other and/or steer them into the VA system when they might otherwise slip through the cracks.

The resolution does not directly involve the VA or require appropriation of federal dollars, but its value is priceless. Enactment of the resolution will help connect service members and vets to support networks. In short, it will save lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Ballard
Harvey Barnum
Ty Carter
Bruce Crandall
Sammy Davis

Roger Donlon
Michael Fitzmaurice
Harold Fritz
Florent Groberg
Allan Kellogg

Gary Littrell
Allen Lynch
Walter Marm
James McCloughan
Hiroshi Miyamura

Melvin Morris
Thomas Norris
Robert Patterson
Thomas Payne
Leroy Petry

Ryan Pitts
Earl Plumlee
Gordon Roberts
Gary "Mike" Rose
William Swenson

Brian Thacker
Matthew Williams