

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2313

Subject VA S.A.V.E

Referred to Convention Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults, and

WHEREAS, The stigma associated with mental health issues is a barrier to veterans seeking assistance. They fear loss of their job, think they can handle their situation themselves, or don't believe others can understand their situation, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is the nation's most influential, effective, and dependable advocate of veteran affairs, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has activated a national platform to reduce the rate of veteran suicide titled, 'Be the One' campaign to destigmatize asking for mental health support, create opportunity for those with mental health issues to speak freely, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support, and

WHEREAS, This sacred duty has now become the obligation of every American Legion Post and its membership, and

WHEREAS, Our members need training in preparation to identify, encounter, and approach a veteran suffering from mental health issues or worse, showing signs of suicidal thoughts, and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a training program to identify Signs of suicidal thinking, Ask the most important question – "Are you thinking of killing yourself?", Validate the veteran's experience, Encourage treatment, and expedite getting help (VA S.A.V.E.), to provide the knowledge and resources needed to ensure a veteran at risk of hurting themselves or others can get connected with appropriate services and resources, and

WHEREAS, American Legion Posts can host VA S.A.V.E. training classes by contacting their local VA Medical Center's Suicide Prevention Team, allowing anyone wanting the training, and

WHEREAS, The goal of The American Legion is to reduce veteran suicide by saving at least one life each day by using every department, every post, every resource, and the ENTIRE American Legion Family to do so, and

WHEREAS, Post training classes may be open to local communities making the training a true Community, State and Nation BE THE ONE program, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Legion strongly encourages American Legion Posts to host VA S.A.V.E. training classes, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion encourages American Legion Posts to invite local community, government agencies, not for profits and businesses to participate in the VA S.A.V.E. training programs, and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That if approved by the Department of New York at its Convention in Westchester, New York, on July 20th-22nd, 2023, this resolution be forwarded to the National Organization for consideration at the National Convention August 25th-31st, 2023, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

American Legion Department of New York

FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE

Approved X Rejected

Approved with Amendments _____

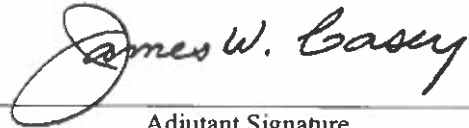
Consolidated with _____

Referred to Standing Committee on _____

Received and Recorded: July 20th, 2023

Other Action:

Signature: Frank J. Peters
(Chairman)



Adjutant Signature

Department Adjutant

Title

Below section to be completed when resolution
is submitted from another authorized source.

Frank J. Peters, Chairman

Name

Department Resolutions Committee

Title