MILITARY SUICIDE AWARENESS

September 15, 2025

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in recent years, military suicides have reached numbers "four times" higher than that of combat deaths; and is up double over the last few years; and

WHEREAS, more female veterans are committing suicide than ever before; and

WHEREAS, the VA estimates that a Veteran commits suicide every eighty-four minutes. That's 17.6 per day, 7,000 suicides a year, and 19% of all American suicides; and

WHEREAS, frequent deployments, stress of combat and prolonged separation from families have increased strain on military personnel and their families; and

WHEREAS, the ***"America's Warrior Partnership"*** and the ***"Department of Defense"*** conclude that the Veteran's Administration is incorrect and that their conclusion is 24 Veterans take their life a day. That is every hour of the day; and

WHEREAS, the actions of the World at this time and the 24th Anniversary of 9/11 approaching, some Veterans may question the meaning of their service or whether it was worth the sacrifices they made. Others may feel moral distress about experiences they had during their service. **It's entirely normal to feel this way, and you are not alone;** and

WHEREAS, military personnel are reluctant to ask for help when they are depressed; and untreated depression is the number one cause of suicide among military personnel; and

WHEREAS, military personnel are encouraged to seek help to restore balance in their lives, as well as the lives of their families by engaging in stress relief activities, maintaining a buddy system of support so that *no soldier stands alone*, remembering the importance of self-care by engaging in activities that improve state of mind, asking for help from a professional, being aware that help is available through a variety of sources, including the Veterans Administration and Suicide Prevention hotlines; and

WHEREAS, The Polk County Commissioners joins the Womack Bradley Polk County Memorial VFW Post #9116 and the Auxiliary in urging all active and former military personnel and their families to seek help for behavior health issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Myron Yoder, Chairman of the Polk County Commissioner, do hereby declare September 2025 as "MILITARY SUICIDE AWARENESS MONTH", and commends its observance to all citizens.

This the 15th day of September, 2025.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Myron Yoder
Chairman

ATTEST:

Kennedy Freeman
Clerk to the Board

President
Womack Bradley Polk County Memorial Post #9116 – Columbus Post

Pro Tem Commander
Womack Bradley Polk County Memorial Post #9116 – Columbus Post