



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

***FLORIDA VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH***

**WHEREAS, suicide is a public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain to individuals, families, and communities across our state and country; and**

**WHEREAS, our veterans and their families demonstrate incredible courage and sacrifice in defense of timeless truths and great freedoms our nation holds dear; and**

**WHEREAS, our military veterans may experience grief and stress before, during, and after their service that can result in mental health struggles or substance abuse; and**

**WHEREAS, as Americans and Floridians, we must continue to offer support and resources for those who have ensured our country remains the land of the free; and**

**WHEREAS, in March 2019, President Trump signed Executive Order 13861, known as the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS), calling for the development of a comprehensive plan to empower veterans and end suicide through coordinated suicide prevention efforts, prioritized research activities, and strengthened collaboration between the public and private sectors; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida accepted the "Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families," a national call to action asking state, military and civilian interagency teams to embark on a process of collaborating, planning and implementing suicide prevention best practices and policies for service members, veterans and their families statewide; and**

**WHEREAS, the Sunshine State will continue to support the implementation of the PREVENTS "Roadmap" and participate in the Governor's Challenge by working to help identify veterans and other citizens in need of care; and**

**WHEREAS, mental health and suicide prevention remains a top priority for our veterans and all Floridians.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing September 2020, as *Florida Veteran Suicide Prevention Month*.**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year two thousand twenty.**

  
Governor