



**SERVING
WITH
PRIDE**



A M V E T S

NATIONAL
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Dear fellow AMVETS,

As many of you know, AMVETS has assumed a lead role in curbing veteran suicide in our country since we launched the HEAL Program in 2018. Whether the number is 22, 20, or 17 veteran suicides a day, these are unacceptable statistics that cannot continue. For that reason, I consider this among my top priorities as National Commander.

I'm proud of all the AMVETS Departments & Posts that have undertaken local efforts to intervene and address the problem in their communities. At National Headquarters, staff has been involved in more than 600 cases where a veteran faced a near or actual crisis. Yet, we must do more.

With that in mind, I'm proud to announce the public release of the "AMVETS Suicide Prevention & Crisis Intervention Course for HEAL Ambassadors." The online course was designed to provide family members, caregivers, and friends of veterans at risk of self-harm or suicide with new tools to intervene and save lives.

This one-of-a-kind training was developed by the AMVETS HEAL Team for the purpose of taking what they learn through casework to provide anyone with the ability and confidence to handle a crisis before it happens.

It is so important for *the entire AMVETS Family* to do whatever it takes to confront veteran suicide. I know you agree.

For that reason, I'm challenging every AMVETS Post and Department to have at least one member complete the course during the month of November and up to 10 members complete it by the end of 2019. We will demonstrate to our nation what true veteran advocacy looks like, encouraging others to follow our example.

I will publicly recognize every post that has at least one member complete the training! We really need *every post* on board. Drastically reducing the incidence of veteran suicide is achievable, but it will require all hands.

The "AMVETS Suicide Prevention & Crisis Intervention Course" can be accessed at: amvets.org/vet-heal/. Following completion, feel free to send your feedback to Sherman Gillums at sgillums@amvets.org.

Thank you for taking part in our united mission to heal American Veterans.

Yours in Service,

Jan Brown
AMVETS National Commander