

**DRAFT RESOLUTION 19-2**

**SUBJECT:** Veteran Mental Health

**SOURCE:** National Headquarters

**WHEREAS,** AMVETS has committed to taking an active lead role in confronting substance abuse, barriers to accessing quality mental healthcare, and suicide among veterans; and

**WHEREAS,** veteran suicide is often a consequence of prolonged social isolation, stressful life events, a sense of burdensomeness, elevated pain tolerance, untreated or undiagnosed mental conditions, and substance abuse; and

**WHEREAS,** predictors of and contributors to suicide are often detectable to persons who are trained to screen for indicators and refer for professional intervention; and

**WHEREAS,** AMVETS has established the HEAL Program in order to give the organization the in-house professional competency to address mental health concerns for underserved veterans; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** that reducing barriers to quality mental healthcare, ensuring quality treatment for veterans with mild to severe traumatic brain injury, and expanding suicide awareness needs to be front and center at our community, state, and federal level; be it further

**RESOLVED,** that each AMVETS department's designated suicide liaison from either AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, AMVETS Sons, or the AMVETS Riders will have access to training programs provided by the HEAL Team that are designed to provide information and tools for detecting indicators of potential suicide; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that each AMVETS department have, or have access to, a suicide awareness plan for outreach and to help promote awareness of the HEAL Program.

ADOPTED by  
AMVETS Department of \_\_\_\_\_