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State of Misconsin 2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4974/1 DFA:emw

2023 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 83

November 6, 2023 - Introduced by Senators Testin, Wirch, Ballweg, Bradley, Cabral-Guevara, Carpenter, Cowles, Felzkowski, Feyen, Hesselbein, James, Larson, Marklein, Nass, Pfaff, Roys, Spreitzer, Taylor and Wanggaard, cosponsored by Representatives Kurtz, Moore Omokunde, Riemer, Vining, Edming, C. Anderson, Andraca, Bare, Binsfeld, Brandtjen, Callahan, Conley, Considine, Dittrich, Donovan, Doyle, Drake, Duchow, Emerson, Gundrum, Gustafson, Joers, S. Johnson, Kitchens, Krug, Macco, Magnafici, Melotik, Murphy, Mursau, Nedweski, Novak, O'Connor, Ohnstad, Ortiz-Velez, Palmeri, Rettinger, Rozar, Schmidt, Shankland, Shelton, Sinicki, Snodgrass, Spiros, Steffen, Stubbs, Subeck and Wichgers. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: declaring November 2023 as Veterans' Mental Health and Suicide 1 $\mathbf{2}$ Awareness Month in Wisconsin. Whereas, Wisconsin is home to more than 331,000 veterans who have faithfully 3 answered the call of military service; and 4 5 Whereas, veterans experience high levels of stress when transitioning from 6 military to civilian life, and about half of returning veterans do not immediately 7 receive the resources, benefits, and services that they need; and 8 Whereas, veterans are more likely to become chronically homeless than 9 nonveterans, experience disproportionately high unemployment rates, and face 10 harsh and undeserved stigma upon returning home after service; and Whereas, veterans' homes and family lives are often burdened by afflictions 11

like post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, physical injury, anxiety

and depression, and substance use disorder; and

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1	Whereas, veterans are five times more likely to experience depression and 15
2	times more likely to experience post-traumatic stress disorder than nonveterans;
3	and
4	Whereas, 40 to 50 percent of Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans have been
5	diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder; and
6	Whereas, over the past 20 years, 30,000 active-duty service members and
7	veterans have tragically died by suicide, which is more than four times the number
8	of service members killed in active combat in that time; and
9	Whereas, suicide is the second leading cause of death among veterans between
10	the ages of 18 and 44; and
11	Whereas, the critical work of nonprofit organizations has raised public
12	awareness of veteran mental health issues like suicide, substance abuse,
13	post-combat injuries, and the transition from military service to civilian life; and
14	Whereas, the 22 Pushup Challenge has played a vital role in engaging veterans
15	in supporting their comrades coping with mental health challenges, partnering with
16	organizations dedicated to empowering veterans and delivering critical mental
17	health services to veterans and their families; now, therefore, be it
18	Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the Wisconsin
19	Legislature declares November 2023 as Veterans' Mental Health and Suicide
20	Awareness Month in Wisconsin.

(END)