

GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Arizona is home to over 600,000 service members, veterans, and their families; and

WHEREAS, August 19, 2019, marks 10 years since the launch of the Arizona Coalition for Military Families, a nationally-recognized public/private partnership and collective impact initiative focused on building support for all who serve; and

WHEREAS, the risk of veteran suicide is three times higher among Arizona veterans and four times higher among older Arizona veterans versus non-veterans; and

WHEREAS, Arizona is one of seven states participating in the SAMHSA/VA Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families; and

WHEREAS, Arizona became a pilot program state for the federal Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act in 2016, paving the way for strengthening and expanding VA and community partnership to address veteran suicide; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's key stakeholders, including the Arizona Coalition for Military Families, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, Arizona National Guard, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, and more, came together to develop and launch Be Connected, an innovative statewide program to address military and veteran suicide through an upstream prevention model, in April 2017; and

WHEREAS, Be Connected is based on the philosophy that, with tools, support, and training, every person can be an open door to connect Arizona service members, veterans, and their families to information, support, and resources; and

WHEREAS, Be Connected has connected over 20,000 Arizonans by phone, in-person, and online and been identified as a promising practice for cross-sector, community-based, upstream prevention of suicide.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim August 19, 2019, as

BE CONNECTED DAY

and the launch date for the Arizona Be Connected Statewide Roadshow. I further urge Arizonans across our state to engage and learn how, as a community, we can create more open doors for our service members, veterans, and their families who have given so much serving our State and Nation.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

Douglas A. Ducey
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twenty-ninth day of July in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Fourth.

ATTEST:

[Signature]

SECRETARY OF STATE