

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
MAY 6 - 7, 2015**

**Resolution No. 27: Veterans Crisis Line**

**Origin: Register Resolution No. 2716 (PA) Department Executive Committee**

**Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, According to the January 2014 Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) report, "Suicide Rates in VHA Patients through 2011 with Comparisons with Other Americans and other Veterans through 2010" (available at [http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/suicide\\_data\\_report\\_update\\_january\\_2014.pdf](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/suicide_data_report_update_january_2014.pdf)) the suicide rate of male veterans under the age of 30 has increased by 44% between 2009 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, The suicide rate of female veterans has increased by 11% between 2009 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, According to graph data listed on the VA's 2012 Suicide Data Report (available at <http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/suicide-data-report-2012-final.pdf>) the Veterans Crisis Line, a national phone line, has experienced a steady increase in the number of calls, texts and chat session visits from former soldiers struggling with suicidal thoughts; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, its first year, 9,379 calls went to the crisis line; and

WHEREAS, Each year the call volume has increased, reaching a high of 193,507 calls in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Two-thirds of veterans who commit suicide are age 50 or older; and

WHEREAS, Making a call for help is probably the most difficult emotional decision for a veteran to make; and

WHEREAS, When calling the VA medical center, a veteran is told to hang up and call another number if he is considering hurting himself; and

WHEREAS, The technology does exist to automatically transfer calls; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 6-7, 2015, That The American Legion does hereby call upon the Department of Veterans Affairs to directly connect the call of a distraught veteran to the Veterans Crisis Line.**