

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2025

Dublin VA observes National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month with Health & Wellness Fair Sept. 10

Dublin, GA – Suicide is preventable and there is hope. This September, throughout Suicide Prevention Month, the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center is offering events and resources to help Veterans who are struggling.

On Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. until noon, the medical center will host a National Suicide Prevention Awareness Health and Wellness event on its front lawn at 1826 Veterans Blvd., Dublin.

The event is open to the public and will include an awareness walk, information, memorial poster boards where attendees can remember loved ones lost to suicide, battlefield acupuncture, meditation, yoga, biofeedback, drum circles, and vendors.

Anyone desiring more information can contact Rev. Eric Boone at <u>Eric.Boone1@va.gov</u> or call 478-272-1210 ext. 74226.

The suicide rate among veterans in 2024 was 52% higher than non-Veteran adults in the U.S. Suicide is complex, and stressful life events like divorce or job loss can be risk factors. Dublin VA offers resources to support veterans across a wide range of life challenges, before these problems become overwhelming.

Dublin VA's efforts support VA's 10-year strategy to end Veteran suicide through a comprehensive, public health approach. According to VA's 2022 National Suicide Prevention Annual Report:

- Although the Veteran suicide rate significantly and meaningfully decreased in 2019, the suicide rate among Veterans in 2024 was 52.3% higher than for non-Veteran U.S. adults. This is a decrease from its previous high of greater than 60%, but much more work remains.
- Firearms were involved in 69.2% of Veteran suicides in 2019, compared to 47.9% of non-Veteran adult suicides.

Everyone can be part of the solution by checking in with the Veterans in their life and encouraging them to reach out if they need help. Visit <u>VA.gov/REACH</u> to download and share social media content to spread the word.

In addition to hosting special events throughout Suicide Prevention Month, VA Dublin offers assistance for Veterans all year round. Learn more by visiting www.va.gov/health-care/healthneeds-conditions/mental-health/suicide-prevention/.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Call Dial 988 then Press 1, text 838255 or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

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Reporters covering this issue can download VA's Safe Messaging Best Practices fact sheet or visit www.ReportingOnSuicide.org for important guidance on how to communicate about suicide.

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