



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

*Veterans Strengthening America*

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1200 • F: (317) 630-1223

To my fellow Legionnaires in Arizona,

The American Legion achieved an enormous victory in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. Thanks to the hard work and advocacy of Legionnaires from around the globe, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act is now the law of the land! It passed because elected officials heard from members of your department who understood the harmful effects that environmental hazards and burn pits can have on veterans. Like any legislation of this scope, implementation will be a challenge. On a national level, we will continue to lobby the administration, Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to do right by America's veterans. On a local level, we will continue to rely on our excellent service officers to ensure that veterans and their families are able to access their benefits.

No issue is more important to our American Legion Family than preventing veteran suicide. I am asking you all to "Be the One" to save one. Through buddy checks, outreach and dialogue we can destigmatize the issue. Veterans value courage and it takes courage to seek help. If we each focus on saving one life, we will collectively save thousands.

Most kindergartners learn how to use the 911 emergency line. The Suicide Crisis Line has now been simplified to 988 (extension 1 for veterans). Let's spread the word about it. A 988 call today can prevent a 911 call tomorrow.

In November, the American people spoke. They elected our new 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. It is important that your senators and representatives hear from you. Visit our national website, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), to find out the issues that are important to The American Legion. Our influence in Washington is only possible because of the engagement that American Legion Family members undertake with their elected officials.

I thank you for your service to America and The American Legion. Best wishes for a productive conference.

For God and Country,

Vincent "Jim" Troiola  
National Commander