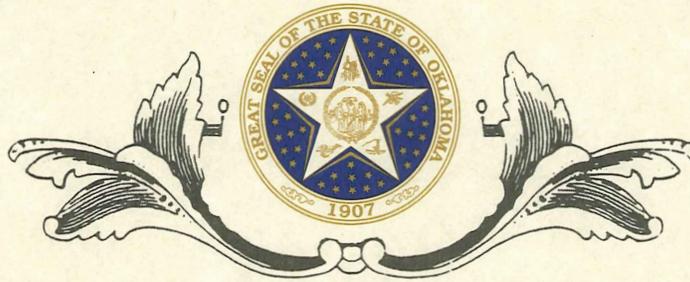


# STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

**Whereas**, suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain to individuals, families, and communities across the country; and

**Whereas**, the number of veteran and military suicides has exceeded 6,000 each year from 2008-2017; and

**Whereas**, suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States, 2<sup>nd</sup> for people ages 10-35, and on average, 129 Americans die by suicide each day, accounting for 47,173 suicide deaths in 2017; and

**Whereas**, on March 5, 2019, the President signed Executive Order 13861 calling for the development of a comprehensive plan to empower veterans and end suicide through coordinated suicide prevention efforts, prioritizing research activities, and strengthening collaboration across the public and private sectors, known as the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS); and

**Whereas**, for every individual who feels alone, ashamed, or believes that they would be a burden if their thoughts or feelings were shared, there are scores of others in every community who want to help but are not sure how; and

**Whereas**, Oklahoma businesses are in the unique position to leverage the learning of our employees, including veterans, to encourage a national discussion on mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, and collaborate on meaningful solutions; and

**Whereas**, the Department of Veterans Affairs has a Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families that brings together interagency teams to address veteran suicide at the state level; and

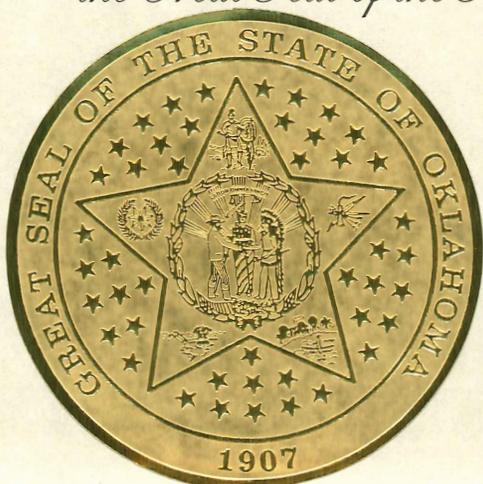
**Whereas**, the PREVENTS national public health campaign, REACH, will seek to increase awareness of mental health issues and suicide prevention to reduce suicide for Americans;

**Now Therefore**, I, Governor J. Kevin Stitt, do hereby proclaim September 10, 2020, as

**"Suicide Prevention Day"**

in the State of Oklahoma.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this eighth day of August, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and twelfth year.*

*Michael Rogers*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Kevin Stitt*

GOVERNOR