

# CAVHCS CONNECTION

CENTRAL ALABAMA VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

# 100 ★ TUSKEGEE EAST CAMPUS 100 1923-2023

Tuskegee VA Campus Celebrates 100 years  
of Serving Veterans

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Central Alabama Veterans  
Health Care System

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### CAVHCS Connection

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*Act with high moral principle.  
Adhere to the highest professional standards.  
Maintain the trust and confidence of all with whom I engage.*

# 100 Years of Healthcare, Service and Equity



By Tramel Garrett, CAVHCS Public Affairs

The Tuskegee VA Hospital stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of dedication, resilience, and a pursuit of excellence. Additionally, its history is intertwined with the nation's struggles against racial segregation and discrimination, and it has emerged as a beacon of hope and equality over the past century.

Vice President of the United States Calvin Coolidge graced the dedication ceremony of the Tuskegee VA Hospital in 1923. Later, in 1924, Dr. Joseph H. Ward assumed the role of the first Black VA medical facility administrator and the inaugural director of the Tuskegee VA Hospital. This historic appointment marked a significant milestone in the journey towards equality in healthcare provision. The legacy of the Tuskegee VA Hospital was further solidified when President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited in March 1936 and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in September 1939 and March 1941.

During World War II, the Tuskegee VA Hospital played a pivotal role in the training and support of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, whose exceptional achievements in combat aviation shattered racial barriers. Additionally, it served as a training site for women of any race who enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps. This chapter in the hospital's history exemplified its commitment to breaking down racial barriers and fostering progress.

The Tuskegee VA Hospital has consistently delivered high-quality, patient-centered care to Veterans from

diverse backgrounds, embodying the core principles of the VA mission. The Tuskegee VA Hospital has also seamlessly integrated into the local community, forming invaluable partnerships with educational institutions and organizations to support the well-being of Veterans and their families. These collaborations have further enriched the hospital's legacy of service and progress.

In 1986, Jimmie L. Clay assumed the role of the director of the Tuskegee VA Medical Center and remained in the role until the medical center merged in 1997 with the Montgomery VA Medical Center. This marked a transitional period in the hospital's history, but its enduring mission and commitment to excellence never wavered. It's worth noting that the appointment of Dr. Joseph H. Ward as the first Black VA medical facility administrator and Jimmie L. Clay as the last director for the Tuskegee VA Hospital underscored the hospital's legacy in breaking down racial barriers and fostering progress.

Today, the Tuskegee VA Hospital continues to stand as a symbol of progress, equality, and a dedication to serving our nation's Veterans. We express our gratitude for your steadfast support, and together, we look forward to honoring our Veterans and the remarkable history that defines the Tuskegee VA Hospital.



## From the Director

Historic Landmark status. Recent discussions by a National Historic Landmarks (NHL) program team signal the initiation of the evaluation process, recognizing the institution's profound historical and cultural value.

On July 8, the campus came alive with the Centennial Gospel Extravaganza, featuring renowned artists such as the Jackson Southernaires, The Clark Brothers, The Alabama Gurlz, and The Spiritual Travelers. Their performances created an atmosphere of spiritual connection and celebration, paying tribute to the campus's significant accomplishments.

During the Centennial Worship Service, a wave of gratitude and reverence swept over the Tuskegee VA Hospital. Powerful speeches from Director Amir Farooqi and Bishop Teresa Snorton emphasized unity, faith, and remembrance, transporting attendees back to the institution's founding in 1923.

The "Whole Health Experience and Outdoor Concert" marked a harmonious fusion of soul-stirring melodies, rhythm, and blues tunes. Lady K and Souled Out Groove graced the stage, delivering exceptional musical performances that delighted the entire community.

In a heartfelt celebration of history, resilience, and service, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough attended the commemoration of the 100th anniversary. His engagement with the Tuskegee community, including the Student Veteran Round Table and a visit to the Oscar Gadson Jr. Museum, underscored the rich history and heritage of the community.

The Tuskegee VA Campus's centennial celebrations stand as a testament to a century of dedicated service, resilience, and the profound impact it has had on the lives of Veterans and the community. These events not only honored the past but also paved the way for a future that upholds the principles of honor, commitment, and unity.

Amir Farooqi, FACHE  
Director/CEO, Central Alabama Veterans HCS



## CAVHCS Director Receives Distinguished Service Award from ACE

Director/CEO of the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System (CAVHCS), Amir Farooqi, was honored with the esteemed American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Recognition Program Distinguished Service Award on November 28. The ceremony, held at the Montgomery VA Campus, featured the Alabama Regent for ACE, Robert Leech, presenting the accolade on behalf of the national organization.

"This award recognizes Amir's work with the American College of Healthcare Executives for the past several years. It's in recognition of his committee work. It's recognition of his being president of ACE of Alabama during the 2022 year. All the great work and great contributions he made toward ACE and its continued development here in Alabama," Leech said.

Farooqi, reflecting on his journey, highlighted the profound impact that ACE has had on his

career evolution, spanning his early days as a graduate school student member to his current standing as a seasoned professional and certified healthcare executive/fellow.

Expressing his gratitude, Farooqi emphasized the enduring friendships and invaluable insights cultivated at every stage of his association with ACE. He conveyed profound honor in receiving recognition from an organization that significantly influenced his personal and professional growth.

The Tuskegee VA Campus, nestled in the heart of Alabama, recently marked a remarkable milestone—its 100th anniversary. The centennial festivities unfolded through a series of grand events, each capturing the essence of the institution's dedication, service, and cultural impact.

The celebration kicked off with the grand reopening of the remodeled Veterans Canteen Service retail store, symbolizing progress while paying homage to the campus's historic roots. This modern upgrade showcased the institution's commitment to evolving with the times and embodied a profound respect for its heritage.

A poignant ceremony occurred at the CAVHCS Chapel, where a Centennial Memorial Day Interfaith Service paid solemn tribute to fallen Veterans. More than a mere commemoration, this event served as an emotional testament to the dedication of the campus staff, volunteers, and the entire community.

Pharmacist Phillip Lyman shared a touching narrative, weaving his deep connection to the Tuskegee Campus rooted in his upbringing in Tuskegee. His personal account added an extra layer of emotion to the centennial celebrations, highlighting the intergenerational commitment to caring for Veterans.

With a century-old legacy, the Tuskegee Campus is now embarking on a journey toward National

# VA Secretary visits Tuskegee VA Campus



Acknowledging the rich history of black servicemembers, Secretary McDonough paid tribute to Veterans from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror. He shared stories of heroism and sacrifice, underlining the contributions of Black Veterans throughout history, from the Tuskegee Airmen to contemporary heroes like Captain Kayla Freeman.

his trailblazing service record. The award will be displayed in the Gadson Museum on the Tuskegee VA Campus.

As the celebration concluded, Secretary McDonough emphasized the need to double the commitment to equality, human dignity, and civil rights in the next 100 years at the VA. He challenged all attendees to work together to combat institutional racism and discrimination, ensuring that every Veteran receives the world-class care and benefits they deserve.

The Secretary acknowledged the pivotal role played by Dr. Joseph Henry Ward, the first Black director of the Tuskegee VA Hospital. Dr. Ward's leadership was lauded as he and his team faced serious threats and discrimination but continued to provide top-notch medical care to Black Veterans. Despite challenges, the Tuskegee Campus became one of the largest VA health care system providers.

The centennial celebration of the Tuskegee VA Campus stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of service, sacrifice, and resilience. Secretary McDonough's recognition of the past and commitment to the future reflects the VA's dedication to providing the best care for all Veterans, regardless of their background. As the nation looks ahead, this milestone serves as a reminder of the collective responsibility to honor the service of all Veterans and build a future that upholds the principles of equality and justice.

To rectify historical injustices, Secretary McDonough directed VA leadership to ensure that Dr. Ward's files accurately reflect his groundbreaking contributions to Veterans. He posthumously recognized Dr. Ward with the Secretary's Exceptional Service Award, a well-deserved and long-overdue acknowledgment of

In a heartfelt celebration of history, resilience, and service, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough attended the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Tuskegee VA Campus. The event recognized a century of dedicated service to Veterans and paid homage to the profound legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, embodying the spirit of honor and commitment that continues to inspire generations.

Secretary McDonough delivered a moving speech, expressing profound gratitude and respect for the extraordinary Veterans, VA teammates, and community leaders present. He highlighted the significance of the 100th anniversary of the Tuskegee VA Hospital, recognizing it as a key battleground in the fight for civil rights a century ago.

Secretary McDonough engaged with the Tuskegee community through various events, fostering meaningful dialogues at the Student Veteran Round Table at Tuskegee University. The rich history showcased at the Oscar Gadson Jr. Museum on the Tuskegee VA Campus became a focal point for acknowledging the community's heritage.

In a poignant gesture, the Secretary honored the dedication of CAVHCS employees with well-deserved VA Secretary Coins. The day reached its zenith with Secretary McDonough actively participating in the formal Tuskegee Centennial Program.



# Whole Health Experience and Outdoor Concert for Tuskegee 100th Anniversary



In a harmonious fusion of soul-stirring melodies and infectious rhythm and blues tunes, the acclaimed vocalist Lady K and the dynamic ensemble Souled Out Groove graced the stage, creating an atmosphere of joy and celebration at the “Whole Health Experience and Outdoor Concert.” This special event marked the Tuskegee VA Hospital’s 100th anniversary and was a free, public gathering that not only delivered exceptional musical performances but also provided a unique Whole Health Experience.

The concert served as more than just a musical extravaganza; it introduced attendees to the Whole Health approach to care—a concept championed by VA. Whole Health was more than just a healthcare strategy; it was a holistic approach that revolved around what mattered to the individual, emphasizing personal values, needs, and goals over medical conditions.



# Tuskegee VA Campus Celebrated 100th Anniversary with Gospel Extravaganza



By Tramel Garrett, CAVHCS Public Affairs

The Tuskegee VA Campus hosted a Gospel Extravaganza commemorating its special 100th anniversary. This grand event took place on July 8 on the Tuskegee VA Campus in Tuskegee, Alabama.

The Gospel Extravaganza paid respect to the rich legacy of the Tuskegee Campus and its century-long commitment to providing exceptional healthcare services to Veterans in the area. The concert not only honored the campus's accomplishments but also provided a captivating afternoon of gospel music for all attendees.

Headlining the Gospel Extravaganza was the renowned Jackson Southernaires, a gospel group celebrated for their soulful voices and heartfelt performances. This legendary group, known for their traditional gospel music, created an atmosphere of spiritual connection and celebration.

Other talented gospel artists shared the stage with the Jackson Southernaires, including The Clark Brothers, The Alabama Gurlz, and The Spiritual Travelers. These gifted musicians delivered captivating performances that resonated deeply with the audience.

"I loved the show. I enjoy good music, especially gospel music, and the enthusiasm was contagious. It was a wonderful concert, and I'm grateful they incorporated the 100th anniversary of the Tuskegee Campus into the show. Thank God for all the remarkable work that has happened here over the last 100 years," said Mike Hogan, a Veteran and VA volunteer.

"I think this was a spectacular concert in honor of the Tuskegee Hospital celebrating 100 years of service to Veterans. As the spouse of a Veteran, I believe more events should take place here to highlight all the great work they are doing," said Robert Edmond, a native of Columbus, Georgia.

The Gospel Extravaganza served as a gift to the community, embracing inclusivity and gratitude. Admission to the concert was free for all individuals, including Veterans, their families and the public. Additionally, concertgoers were encouraged to donate non-perishable food items to support the Heart of Alabama Food Bank food equity for all.

"It's about bringing music and faith together, which are important in terms of healing, especially for our Veterans," said Director Amir Farooqi. "Ensuring they have healing resources and the support they need; gospel music really brings it all together."



# Operation We Remember



W. Kent Davis, State Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, CAVHCS Director Amir Farooqi, Tuscaloosa VA Director John F. Merkle and Patricia Ross, State Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Veterans Affairs stand solemnly before a sea of American Flags, each one a poignant tribute to Veterans who tragically lost their battle with suicide in 2021

By Tramel Garrett, CAVHCS Public Affairs

A profound crisis looms large across the nation: the heartbreaking reality of Veteran suicides. Every state, including Alabama, has rallied behind initiatives like the Governor’s Challenge and Mayor’s Challenge, fostering collaborations between federal and state agencies, aiming to combat this tragic epidemic.

Rear Admiral W. Kent Davis, U.S. Navy (Retired), State Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, eloquently expressed the essence of this endeavor. “We wanted a visual reminder; a pretty stark visual reminder of how Veteran suicide affects individual lives.” Thus, Operation We Remember was born—a powerful initiative that seeks to honor and remember the Veterans in Alabama who tragically succumbed to suicide.

The visual impact of Operation We Remember is striking as a field of flags, each representing a Veteran who lost their life to suicide in the year 2021, the latest year for which statistics are available. It is a somber reminder of individual lives, each one a story, a legacy cut short by the devastating effects of suicide.

CAVHCS has become a torchbearer for this cause, creating a moving display on the Tuskegee VA

Campus. This display not only honors the lives lost but also serves as a constant reminder to the community about the gravity of the issue at hand. The field of flags, standing proudly amidst the Alabama landscape, signifies both the loss suffered and the resilience of a community determined to raise awareness and effect change.

Operation We Remember is not just about paying tribute; it is a call to action. The goal is clear—to raise awareness about Veteran suicides, break the stigma surrounding mental health issues within the Veteran community, and create a robust support network.

“Ultimately, we’re hoping to raise awareness of the issue to get more support and link up the assets that can help Veterans overcome the crisis. So, we don’t have to put out more flags next year,” said Davis.

This tribute gained added significance as it unfolded during September, recognized as National Suicide Prevention Month. It is a powerful reminder that while Operation

“Operation We Remember is not just a display; it’s a pledge. A pledge to our Veterans that we will remember, honor, and support them, not just in words but actions,” said CAVHCS Director Amir Farooqi.



## Central Alabama VA deploys 2 employees in support of Hurricane Idalia

By Tramel Garrett, CAVHCS Public Affairs

In times of crisis, healthcare professionals shine as beacons of hope and compassion, illuminating the path ahead.

The remarkable account of two dedicated nurses from the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System (CAVHCS), who willingly volunteered to support another VA hospital in the face of Hurricane Idalia impacting Florida, is a testament to the unwavering commitment of these heroic individuals clad in scrubs.

Hurricane Idalia ominously approached Florida, and its potential for widespread devastation sent waves of concern through VA hospitals within its projected path. One of our sister medical facilities found itself directly in the storm’s trajectory, grappling with the formidable challenge.

Recognizing the urgent need for additional medical personnel to safeguard vulnerable patients, a rallying cry for assistance was met with an extraordinary response from a group of nurses affiliated with CAVHCS.

Among the exceptional CAVHCS personnel who selflessly stepped forward were Dr. Lashondra

Moore, a registered nurse and Rebecca Pace, a nursing assistant.

“The actions of our team in the face of Hurricane Idalia’s fury are a true reflection of the values we uphold as healthcare providers. Their dedication and willingness to stand by their fellow nurses and patients in times of crisis inspire us all. They have demonstrated the very essence of our profession, and their unity in the face of adversity is a testament to the strength of our nursing community,” said CAVHCS Associate Director for Patient Care Services, Laundrena LaPradd-Bradley.

The deployed staff is offering critical support to the Orlando VA Medical Center throughout the storm’s aftermath. The team’s primary mission is to provide backup to Florida’s already overwhelmed healthcare workers caring for displaced Veterans impacted by the storm. VA employees often take on a critical role in support of national disasters as part of our 4th mission.



evidence-based practices to maximize treatment outcomes.

Recognizing the imperative of reintegration into society, MHR RTP offers residents life skills training and vocational components. These components empower residents to transition towards a successful post-rehabilitation phase seamlessly.

The program honors the pivotal role of family and support networks in the recovery journey. Residents are empowered to involve their families in treatment processes, with opportunities for participation in Treatment Team Conferences.

MHR RTP is actively exploring avenues to extend its support to families, envisioning weekend marriage retreats in collaboration with Chaplain Service. This initiative seeks to nurture stronger familial connections and holistic well-being.

Reflecting on the program's significance, Gabrielle Franklin, MHR RTP Manager, remarks, "Our Veterans deserve the best, and that's precisely what this revitalized program aims to deliver. We are not just healing; we are transforming lives."

By synergizing innovation, collaboration, and a dedicated focus on safety and support, CAVHCS aspires to offer a program that not only addresses the needs of Veterans but surpasses their expectations.

# Revitalization of the CAVHCS Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment

By Tramel Garrett, CAVHCS Public Affairs

CAVHCS worked extensively in 2023 with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention to enhance the CAVHCS Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MHR RTP). Following meticulous evidence-based improvements of procedures and with a commitment to the well-being of our Veterans, this revitalization of an important service marks a significant milestone in providing comprehensive care.

The MHR RTP has undergone significant transformation to elevate the standard of care and support extended to Veterans. Implementing new policies has fortified security measures, ensuring the safety of dedicated staff and deserving residents. The program's group and unit programming have been thoughtfully revamped using evidence-based practices that foster an environment conducive to healing and recovery, offering Veterans a more engaging path to well-being.

The revitalized program introduces a host of enhancements aimed at delivering superior care, improved security, and support to those who have selflessly served our country. For Veterans grappling with mental health challenges and addictive disorders needing a structured and nurturing environment, the MHR RTP has stood as a beacon of hope for CAVHCS Veterans for many years and is now prepared to provide improved services to even more Veterans.

Acknowledging the importance of collaboration, MHR RTP has forged partnerships with other programs within the VA network. This collaborative approach seamlessly integrates collective expertise and resources, enhancing the overall treatment experience for our heroes.

"This revitalization of the MHR RTP speaks volumes about our commitment to providing the best and most appropriate care possible to our Veterans," says Amir Farooqi, Director of CAVHCS. He further adds, "Through innovation and collaboration, we're setting new standards for their well-being."

Comprising a 43-bed Domiciliary Care Homeless Veterans Program and a 30-bed General Domiciliary, this 73-bed Residential Treatment Program is specifically designed to address the complex needs of Veterans dealing with severe psychosocial difficulties, including homelessness and unemployment.

MHR RTP stands firm in its commitment to evidence-based practices, ensuring the provision of effective therapeutic interventions. Both group and individual therapy sessions seamlessly incorporate these





# Tuskegee Campus 100th Anniversary Worship Service



VHA Executive Director, National Chaplain Service Kimberly Willis, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Bishop Teresa Snorton and CAVHCS Director Amir Farooqi, pose for a photo after the CAVHCS Centennial Worship Service.

By Tramel Garrett, CAVHCS Public Affairs

A wave of gratitude and reverence washed over the Tuskegee VA Hospital as it celebrated a monumental milestone – a century of dedication to hope and healing. The air was thick with history and faith as attendees gathered at the Chapel on the Tuskegee VA Campus to pay homage to the legacy of care that has defined this institution for a hundred years.

The event resonated with powerful speeches from influential figures, including the heartfelt words of Director Amir Farooqi and the compelling message from Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Bishop Teresa Snorton. Both echoed a common refrain of unity, faith, and remembrance.

Bishop Snorton captivated the audience with a historical narrative, vividly depicting the world of 1923 when the hospital was founded. She illuminated the challenges of that era, including the aftermath of World War I and the societal shifts of the roaring

1920s. She also underscored the significance of remembering the victories and tribulations, as it fosters a profound appreciation for the journey and the strides made.

With passion, Snorton encouraged everyone to embrace their narratives, acknowledging the hurdles and adversities faced.

“Because we are still here... because you are still standing... we affirm the remarkable journey that has brought us to this moment,” she proclaimed. These words underscored the enduring spirit of resilience that has sustained the hospital and the Veterans it serves.

The theme of remembrance resounded, echoing the importance of recalling the obstacles surmounted and the progress attained. It was a clarion call, not merely to reminisce, but to act – to serve others, embody compassion, and champion justice.

During the Centennial Worship Service at the Chapel on the Tuskegee VA Campus, the Tuskegee University Choir uplifted the gathering with their inspiring gospel performance. The VHA Executive Director, National Chaplain Service Kimberly Willis also graced the occasion, delivering a heartfelt speech that further enriched the ceremony with words of wisdom and encouragement.

As the Tuskegee VA Campus embarks on its next hundred years, it does so equipped with a profound understanding of its history, a sense of purpose, and a commitment to the Veterans and communities it serves.

The Centennial Worship Service stood as a testament to the enduring power of faith, unity, and the indomitable human spirit – forces that have sustained this institution and will undoubtedly propel it into a future overflowing with hope and healing.



# Dr. Mildred Dixon VA Podiatry Clinic Dedication ceremony



VISN 7 Network Director Dr. David Walker, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, Dr. Erica Scavella and CAVHCS Director/CEO Amir Farooqi unveils the plaque during the Dr. Mildred Dixon VA Podiatry Clinic Dedication ceremony.

On October 26, 2023, We had the incredible honor of holding a dedication ceremony at the Tuskegee VA Podiatry Clinic. It's with immense pride and deep reverence that we renamed the clinic after a trailblazer and a true inspiration, Dr. Mildred Dixon. Dr. Mildred Dixon holds the distinction of being the first full-time African-American woman podiatrist in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Her dedication, pioneering spirit, and commitment to compassionate care have left an indelible mark on our institution and the lives of countless Veterans.

As we gathered, we not only celebrated the renaming of this clinic but also commemorated the extraordinary journey of a woman who shattered glass ceilings and paved the way for future generations. Dr. Dixon's legacy reminds us of the importance of perseverance, equality, and the boundless possibilities that come with passion and hard work. We sincerely thank everyone who joined us on this momentous occasion. Together, we pay tribute to a remarkable individual whose legacy will continue to inspire and uplift us.



Dr. Kittra Owens, CAVHCS Chief of Staff



Dr. Richard Whitmore, CAVHCS Podiatrist



# Homeless Veterans Stand Down



At the CAVHCS Homeless Veterans Stand Down event, the community came together to provide essential services to our heroes. From meals to medical screenings, dental check-ups to haircuts, educational sessions to connecting with various community resources, and even VA staff to answer questions, it was an incredible day of support.

# Women Veterans Program



CAVHCS held a Women's Release and Let Go Program, providing a platform for Women Veterans to share their stories at the Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic. During the program, attendees could speak and reflect on their experiences. This event aimed to raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by women Veterans and foster a sense of community among participants. CAVHCS demonstrates its commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all Veterans by giving women a voice and connecting them with resources.



# Summer Vet-Fest



CAVHCS held a Summer Vet-Fest Resource Fair and PACT Act Veterans Town Hall. There were several information tables such as Toxic Exposure Screening, Veterans Benefits Administration Claims Assistance, Health Care Enrollment, Travel Claim Assistance, Veteran ID Cards, Social Work, Information about Volunteering, Patient Advocates, Whole Health and special guest DJ Ash. VA facilities nationwide hosted events to inform Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors about the PACT Act and encourage them to apply for the health care and benefits they have earned.

A powerful afternoon of reflection and advocacy at our Womens Veterans Day Program. Dr. Kittra Owens, CAVHCS Chief of Staff, delivers a compelling keynote address, sharing her remarkable journey and shedding light on the gender-based disparities faced by women Veterans. Her candid account underscores the pressing need for advocacy and systemic reforms, calling us to recognize and honor the invaluable contributions of our women Veterans.

# Veterans Parade 2023



Our community came together in a vibrant display of patriotism at the annual Tuskegee VA Campus Veterans Day Parade, commemorating a century of service at the historic Tuskegee VA Hospital. Veterans, CAVHCS employees, and community groups marched proudly, creating a moving tableau of unity and gratitude. The air was filled with heartfelt tributes, honoring the resilience of those who have served our nation over the past 100 years. We extend our deepest thanks to all participants, volunteers, and organizers who made this event truly unforgettable.



# If you're in crisis, call the new Veterans Crisis Line number.



Dial 988 then Press 1.



The new, shorter number directly addresses the need for ease of access and clarity in times of crisis, both for Veterans and non-Veterans alike.

Though the number is changing, the Veterans Crisis Line dedicated service is still the same.

To reach the Veterans Crisis Line, Veterans will still Press 1 after dialing 988 to connect with qualified, caring responders.



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