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VA Recognizes Mental Health Month With Video Campaign Focused on How Treatment Can Transform Lives

WASHINGTON — In recognition of Mental Health Month this May, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) emphasized the positive impact of mental health treatment through a video campaign spotlighting hundreds of Veterans who have stepped forward to combat the stigma around mental health that is still deeply entrenched in American culture.

“VA is a leader in our nation when it comes to mental health treatment,” said Acting VA Secretary Peter O’Rourke. “During Mental Health Month, we used an innovative [Make the Connection](#) video movement to demonstrate how mental health treatment can have a significant impact on a person’s quality of life.”

The video histories found on www.MakeTheConnection.net document in extraordinary detail the human spirit’s ability to overcome significant trauma. The stories also aim to inspire, influence and shape communities, culture and policies for those who may be suffering from mental illness.

Also this month, VA announced that the White House approved an interagency plan to implement President Trump’s January 2018 executive order titled, “Supporting Our Veterans During Their Transition From Uniformed Service to Civilian Life.”

The order provides that VA, Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security will collaborate to provide seamless access for Veterans to mental health care and suicide prevention resources for a full year after separation from uniformed service to civilian life, regardless of verified service connection.

Overall, VA is encouraging citizens to help mobilize their communities in support of understanding that mental health treatment can work and recovery is possible. Veterans and their family members and friends can take the first step to learn more about mental health and find local resources by visiting www.MaketheConnection.net. Make the Connection is also on VA’s [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) platforms.

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