

**RESOLUTION**  
**Department Headquarters, The American Legion of Ohio**  
**102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Department Convention, Independence, Ohio**  
**July 8 – 11, 2021**

RESOLUTION No.: 22-05

ORIGIN: Department Legislative Commission

SUBJECT: To Establish an Official Ohio Buddy Check Week

REFERRED TO: Legislative Commission

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WHEREAS, The American Legion seeks to strengthen America and the State of Ohio by improving the lives of our veterans, the military, and their families; and

WHEREAS, In the military, servicemembers become a part of a family and a mission that is larger than themselves and are surrounded by peers and leaders who function as a support network; and

WHEREAS, The transition into civilian life often comes at a loss of close-knit support and the mission and structure of the military community; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has approximately 848,000 veterans which constitutes the sixth-largest population of veterans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 257 Ohio veterans died by suicide in 2019; and

WHEREAS, In September 2020, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio signed a resolution calling on Ohioans to raise awareness of mental health, suicide prevention, lethal means safety, and support services available in their communities; and

WHEREAS, In March 2019, The American Legion established the Buddy Check Program that encouraged Legion post to reach out to veterans in their local area by phone, email, text, and personal visits to see how they are doing and what help they may need; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and The American Legion Department of Ohio created a Buddy Check toolkit to help the participants know the resources available to veterans in the local area; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion legislative agenda for the 117th Congress calls for the passage of a National Buddy Check Week which will encourage outreach and veteran peer-to-peer engagement; and

WHEREAS, The month of November offers many points of contact and outreach to veterans, but the post-holiday months are often very quiet; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion celebrates it's birthday on March 15 annually; and, now be it

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This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Department but with National action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant

Department

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Resolution 21, May 4-5, 2016)

**BELOW THIS LINE FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY**

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Approved

Approved with Amendment

Rejected

Received and Recorded

Consolidated with

Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on

Other Action

Signature of Chairman or Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

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**RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Ohio, Department Executive Committee assembled in regular session, in Delaware, Ohio, on April 2, 2022, that we call upon The Ohio General Assembly to designate the week of March 15th as the Buddy Check Week for the State of Ohio to organize outreach events and educate veterans on how to conduct peer wellness checks; and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That the Director of Ohio Veterans Services shall collaborate with veteran service organizations, County Veteran Service Commissions, nonprofits that serve veterans, mental health experts, members of the Armed Forces, The Secretary of State, County Commissioners, Mayors, and members of the Ohio General Assembly, in the planning and execution of Ohio's Buddy Check Week.**

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