

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 5-6, 2021
Virtual**

**Resolution No. 11: Lethal Means and Suicide Prevention
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, In 2018, firearms were the method of suicide in 69.4% of male veteran suicide deaths and 41.9% of female veteran suicide deaths; and

WHEREAS, Firearms are an extremely lethal method of suicide with nearly 90 percent of attempts resulting in death; and

WHEREAS, The results of a meta-analysis of nearly 100 studies of suicide attempters showed that 90% of attempters who survive, do not go on to die by suicide; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion remains committed to examining recent trends and best practices in suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, Although nearly half of all veterans possess a firearm, only one in three follow the firearm industry's recommendations for safely storing firearms in the home; and

WHEREAS, Learning, planning, and practicing safe storage practices before challenging times arise, can reduce the risk for suicide or injury for at risk veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) have compiled tips for safely storing firearms as well as best practices for sharing these guidelines; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion strongly supports the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and will advocate for all veterans to have the right to keep and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, Declines in firearm suicides do not require decreased gun ownership rates; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion raise awareness of lethal means safety as it relates to veteran suicide; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will support suicide prevention initiatives aimed at lethal means safety so long as such initiatives do not encroach on the constitutional right to bear arms.