

Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families (SMVF)

Newsletter: September 2026



DEPARTMENT OF
**COMMUNITY &
HUMAN SERVICES**

September is a meaningful month for honoring our military and Veteran community while raising awareness about mental health and suicide prevention. As we recognize Suicide Prevention Month, September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, Patriot Day, POW/MIA Recognition Day, the U.S. Air Force Birthday, and Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day, we are reminded of the sacrifices and unique challenges experienced by service members, Veterans, and their families. This month, we encourage everyone to check in, stay connected, and help create a community where seeking support is encouraged and no one feels they have to face difficult times alone.

Please check out the September SMVF newsletter for more information on events and workshops happening this month!

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, September 2, 1–2 p.m.

Postvention Immediately After a Suicide Death: Emotional Support for Loss Survivors. [Register Here](#)

Tuesday, September 8, 12–1 p.m.

WRIISC-HOME – Effects of Inflammation & Nutrition from Military Environmental Exposures. [Register Here](#)

Monday, September 14, 2–3 p.m.

VA Institute for Learning, Education & Development – What is Psychedelic Therapy for Depression and PTSD? [Register Here](#)

Tuesday, September 15, 3–4 p.m.

VA Institute for Learning, Education & Development – Findings to the Frontline: VA Suicide Prevention Research Dissemination Cyber Seminar. [Register Here](#)

Tuesday, September 15, 7–8:30 p.m.

Beyond the Injury: TBI Support for Military-Connected Families. [Register Here](#)

Sunday, September 27, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Veterans Wellness Expo. [Register Here](#)



Military Observances

- **Month of September** – National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
- **September 2** – Victory over Japan (V-J) Day
- **September 11** – Patriot Day
- **September 18** – National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- **September 18** – U.S. Air Force Birthday
- **September 27** – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

Free SMVF Trainings with CEU Credit

Supporting Hidden Helpers in the Classroom

Provider: PsychArmor Training

This course is designed to increase the awareness and knowledge of professionals on the unique needs, strengths, and challenges faced by military caregiving youth. [**Register Here**](#)

Women Veterans Series

Provider: PsychArmor Training (0.5 CMEs)

This online course is designed to introduce learners to the unique experiences and contributions of women service members and Veterans. [**Register Here**](#)

Connecting with the VA

Provider: PsychArmor Training (0.5 CEUs)

This module is designed for healthcare professionals who treat military service members and military and Veteran-connected patients, wishing to work more effectively to promote patient understanding and culturally-informed care.

[**Register Here**](#)

Caring for Our Diverse Military Population

Provider: PsychArmor Training

This innovative training program prepares mental health providers to address identified gaps in cultural competency within behavioral health services. The training covers key topics including military cultural humility, intersectionality, diversity in the military, mental health disparities, and culturally responsive treatment practices to improve care and outcomes for the military-connected community. [**Register Here**](#)

Employment Opportunities

Are you a Veteran seeking employment? Check out the resources below:

American Job Centers: Career One Stop

Enter your military occupation and branch to see where your skills can be utilized in a civilian career.

VA Careers

Connect directly with a representative in your area through the **VA Recruiter Directory**.

Hiring Our Heroes

Access fellowships, career fairs, and networking events via the **Hiring Our Heroes Platform**.

Same Day Access: Helping Veterans Connect to the Right Care

Same Day Access (SDA) is expanding its efforts to support Veterans and military-connected individuals who may benefit from VA Community Care. Under the VA MISSION Act of 2018, eligible Veterans may be able to receive services from community providers when timely care is not available through the VA. When Community Care is approved and authorized by the VA, the VA pays for the authorized services provided in the community, such as services provided by the Community Services Board.

SDA will begin implementing a process when identifying Veterans during the initial screening. When a Veteran presents without an existing Community Care referral, we will make efforts to connect directly with the VA to help clarify eligibility and support the referral or authorization process.

The goal is to make the path to care easier to navigate, reduce unnecessary delays, and improve coordination between SDA, the VA, and our community partners so Veterans can access the services they need in a timely and supportive way.

K. Ragin, DSW, LCSW



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