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CONTACT

Thomas J. Valeo
Office of Representative Matt Willhite
561.791.4071
Thomas.Valeo@myfloridahouse.gov

Representative Willhite Refiles House Memorial Recognizing Veteran Suicide

WELLINGTON, Fla. – Today State **Representative Matt Willhite (D-Wellington)** filed [HM 63](#), which urges the United States Congress to recognize the epidemic of suicide among veterans and fully fund suicide prevention efforts by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The Florida House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved an identical version of this House Memorial during the last legislative session, receiving 118 co-sponsorships.

Representative Willhite issued the following statement:

"The time is past due that our country works more aggressively at home to protect the brave men and women in the military that protect and defend our country overseas. We are now dealing with the mental health strain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the withdrawal from Afghanistan that ended a 20-year conflict in the Middle East. As the third-largest state in the country, Florida has the potential to lead in something good. We tried to do this last session. Yet, due to time constraints or a lack of political will, this House Memorial was not properly approved and never sent to our federal government counterparts. Let's lead by doing something meaningful. Let's pass this House Memorial and show the country that we care about the mental health of our veterans.

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