

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.117

Reps. Tate, Allor, Cherry, Chirkun, Clemente, Elder, Garrett, Garza, Gay-Dagnogo, Haadsma, Hood, Hope, Cynthia Johnson, Jones, Kahle, Kuppa, Leutheuser, Liberati, Love, Manoogian, Pagan, Pohutsky, Rabhi, Sabo, Sowerby, Stone, Warren, Webber, Wittenberg, Witwer and Yaroch offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare June 2019 as Buddy-to-Buddy Volunteer
2 Veteran Program Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Our military's men and women make great sacrifices to
4 protect our country, our state, and the freedoms and privileges we
5 hold dear; and

6 Whereas, As veterans and service members, they deserve to be
7 supported, cared for, and afforded access to the benefits they've
8 earned; and

9 Whereas, There are over 650,000 veterans and over 16,000



1 active duty and reserve service members in Michigan; and

2 Whereas, In Michigan, only 18% of veterans are currently
3 receiving benefits, while veterans are disproportionately
4 overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. The
5 veteran suicide rate in the state is higher than that of the
6 civilian population; and

7 Whereas, Buddy-to-Buddy volunteer veterans open their hearts
8 and give their time to provide peer support and connection to vital
9 resources for Michigan's veterans and service members and thus play
10 a vital role in supporting this community; and

11 Whereas, The Buddy-to-Buddy Volunteer Veteran Program has
12 helped over 5,500 veterans and service members in the state of
13 Michigan since its inception; and

14 Whereas, The 10th anniversary of the Buddy-to-Buddy Volunteer
15 Veteran Program is an appropriate opportunity to thank the
16 volunteers and staff who have embraced the responsibility of
17 providing support to our veterans and service members in need; and

18 Whereas, The state of Michigan must do more to improve the
19 lives veterans and service members in Michigan; now, therefore, be
20 it

21 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
22 this legislative body declare June 2019 as Buddy-to-Buddy Volunteer
23 Veteran Program Month in the state of Michigan. We commemorate the
24 10th anniversary of this worthy endeavor and its service to the
25 state of Michigan. We encourage citizens to volunteer their time,
26 talents, and resources to support our veterans and service members
27 and realize that the state of Michigan must do more to improve the
28 lives of those who have given so much.