

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.117

Rep. Tate 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  
10 active duty and reserve service members in Michigan; and

11       Whereas, In Michigan, only 18% of veterans are currently  
12 receiving benefits, while veterans are disproportionately  
13 overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. The



1 veteran suicide rate in the state is higher than that of the  
2 civilian population; and

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

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

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

14       Whereas, The state of Michigan must do more to improve the  
15 lives veterans and service members in Michigan; now, therefore, be  
16 it

17       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
18 this legislative body declare June 2019 as Buddy-to-Buddy Volunteer  
19 Veteran Program Month in the state of Michigan. We commemorate the  
20 10th anniversary of this worthy endeavor and its service to the  
21 state of Michigan. We encourage citizens to volunteer their time,  
22 talents, and resources to support our veterans and service members  
23 and realize that the state of Michigan must do more to improve the  
24 lives of those who have given so much.