



EMPACT - SUICIDE PREVENTION CENTER

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Join the Battle: Fighting Veteran Suicide at the Annual '22 for the 22 Ceremony' Event**

Phoenix, AZ – April 12, 2024 – The 22 for the 22 Ceremony Event returns, and it's more important than ever. This annual event shines a light on the pressing issue of Veteran suicide while supporting programs that provide crucial assistance to Veterans and their families.

The first 22 for 22 Event occurred in 2014. It was created to honor those whose lives have been affected by Veteran suicide. It provided a way to remember those who were lost and an opportunity for Veterans, their families, and friends to share their stories. At its inception, the event was named to commemorate how there were 22 Veterans lost to suicide every day. To honor those lost, 22 Veterans would march in their honor.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs 2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, the average number of Veteran suicides per day is alarmingly high, rising from 16.4 in 2001 to 16.8 in 2020, with the highest numbers of 18.6 per day in 2018. *Source:* <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2022/2022-National-Veteran-Suicide-Prevention-Annual-Report-FINAL-508.pdf>

The Rally Point Arizona Crisis Transition Navigation program plays a vital role in helping service members, Veterans, and their families when they need it most. This program tailors services to individualized needs, promoting self-sufficiency and resilience, and reducing the probability of future crises. Rally Point offers peer-based assistance, connecting military and community resources, and bridging the gap for those in need.

Rally Point Arizona is a program of La Frontera EMPACT-Suicide Prevention Center, a non-profit behavioral health agency dedicated to building a safe, strong, and healthy Arizona.

*Your partner for a safe, strong, and healthy community*

618 S. Madison Drive | Tempe, AZ 85281 | 480.784.1514 office | 480.967.3528 Fax | [www.lafrontera-empact.org](http://www.lafrontera-empact.org)

**480-784-1500 24/7 Crisis Hotline**



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“Young service members sometimes come back from fighting wars and are left to fight their own personal war. It can be very intimidating,” shares Luis Soto, Veteran and event committee member. “The 22 for 22 Ceremony provides a space for Veterans to feel like a cohesive team united for a greater good in the spirit of service.”

**Event Details:**

**What:** Annual 22 for the 22 Ceremony

**When:** Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 9 am to 12 pm

**Where:** American Legion Post 1 Luke-Greenway, 364 N 7th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85007 (*off 7th Ave and Van Buren*)

Join us for a day of unity, featuring speakers, the Color Guard, Vet to Vet connections, and Veteran information booths. Donations and sponsorships help support this annual event.

For more information about the event or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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