

## Senate Resolution 652

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Thompson of the 14th, Dugan of the 30th, Watson of the 1st, Miller of the 49th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September as Veteran's Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month in Georgia;  
2 designating Pantone 395 as the official color associated with veteran suicide and prevention  
3 activities in Georgia; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the most current data provided by the United States Department of Veterans  
5 Affairs shows that 6,139 United States veterans took their own lives in 2017; 7.9 percent of  
6 the United States adult population are veterans; however, they account for 13.5 percent of  
7 all deaths by suicide in their age bracket; and

8 WHEREAS, 17 veterans commit suicide everyday in the United States, equating to a rate of  
9 suicide among male and female veterans that is 1.3 and 2.2 times higher than the norm  
10 respectively; and

11 WHEREAS, the average number of veteran suicide deaths per day has equaled or exceeded  
12 16 since 2007, and more than one veteran suicide occurs every two days in Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, just one suicide is incredibly traumatic and heartbreaking, affecting an  
14 estimated 135 surviving individuals per death; and

15 WHEREAS, our nation understandably grieves with each suicide, prompting our collective  
16 and tireless pursuit of community-prevention strategies aimed at reaching each veteran; and

17 WHEREAS, United States citizens owe all veterans, who have sacrificed their comfort,  
18 security, and happiness to ensure our most basic freedoms, an eternal debt of gratitude; and

19 WHEREAS, it is essential that all veterans receive the assistance they need to enhance their  
20 well-being and their ability to live long and fulfilling lives; and

21 WHEREAS, communities, peers, close associates, and the media are critical in preventing  
22 death by suicide; and

23 WHEREAS, the United States Mountain Ranger Association desires to commit personnel,  
24 time, and resources to assist in veteran suicide awareness and prevention.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
26 designate September as Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month and Pantone 395  
27 as the official color associated with veteran suicide and prevention activities in Georgia.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
29 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
30 press.