




Deputy Secretary Thomas G. Bowman
Department of Veterans Affairs
December 12, 2017



***“To care for
shall have borne
the battle, and
for his widow
and his orphan.”***

**Abraham
Lincoln, 1865**

Our Mission

**To care for
those who have
“borne the
battle” and for
their families
and survivors.**



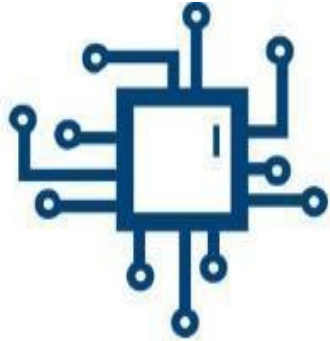


#BeThere

VA's 5 priorities for modernization



Greater Choice



Modernize Systems



Focus Resources



Improve Timeliness



Suicide Prevention



VA priorities for suicide prevention

- 1 **Improve** Military to Civilian Transition
- 2 **Know** and understand the entire population of Veterans
- 3 **Partner** across communities
- 4 **Increase** lethal means safety
- 5 **Provide** open access to mental health care at VHA facilities



changing perspectives

- Know that Veteran suicide is preventable
- Make suicide prevention everybody's business
- Connect to every Veteran in your community
- Ask, listen, and understand Veterans' challenges
- Connect Veterans to resources to meet their needs
- Offer help and sustained care
- Support those affected by suicide





for those who've "borne the
battle"

#BeTHere



VA



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