



1 **Resolution in Support of Listening to Veterans Day**

2 WHEREAS, military service members are 1-percent of the population shouldering the responsibility of
3 protecting the entire Nation and all its states and territories; and

4 WHEREAS, United States war veterans often suffer unnecessary emotional pain because of their
5 isolation from people in their communities; and

6 WHEREAS, these veterans often feel less isolated and suffer less when they are offered the chance to
7 have ordinary, civilian citizens simply listen to their stories with respect and without judgment; and

8 WHEREAS, Veterans Affairs leaders have expressed alarm at the steadily rising rates of distress in war
9 veterans including suicides (now at 22 per day), homelessness, family breakdown and substance abuse;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, these problems are fueled by what Col.(Ret.) David Sutherland calls “an epidemic of
12 disconnection” between veterans from all wars and people who have not served in the military; and

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NLGA encourages all Lieutenant Governors to proclaim a
14 Listening to Veterans Day for their state,

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this day may be observed in the context of one of the major veteran
16 holidays: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, or Veterans Day,

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every citizen should be encouraged to observe Listening to Veterans Day
18 by offering to listen with respect and without judgments to a war veteran’s story of their time at war
19 and their experiences since returning home.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor(s) Elizabeth Roberts, Rhode Island (D); Matt Michels, South Dakota (R)
Co-sponsors: Lt. Governor(s): Darr, AR; Ellspermann, IN; Kleefisch, WI; Ivey, AL; Reynolds, IA; Cawley, PA;
Bolling, VA; Heidemann, NE ; Wyman, CT; Francis, VI; Simon, IL; and Treadwell, AK

Passed July 19, 2013