



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### 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, homelessness, family breakdown and substance abuse; and

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

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

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

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

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Matt Michels, SD and Nancy Wyman, CT; Additional Co-sponsors: Lt. Governor Phil Scott, VT; Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, IA