For Immediate Release

American Legion Southern Maryland District 5 and Post 217 are hosting a Be The One event aimed at reducing the rate of Veteran suicide

American Legion Southern Maryland District 5 and Post 217 in College Park, MD, are hosting an event aimed at reducing the rate of Veteran suicide. The American Legion is leading a nationwide effort with *Be the One* campaign to eliminate the stigma related to mental health treatment, and in turn, lower the number of Veterans who die by suicide every day.

The number of Veterans who die by suicide every day is estimated at between 17 and 22. The American Legion has elevated **Be the One** to be its top priority, empowering Veterans, service members, their family members and civilians to act appropriately when a Veteran may be at risk. This event intends to bring more awareness to the problem while providing resources to those who may be able to help save the life of a Veteran.

The event at Post 217 will include Veteran and Community resources with Guest Speakers, information from the VA Vet Center and the Stephen A. Cohen Military Family Center, both located in Silver Spring, MD to name a few and the list is growing...

12 Noon to 4:00 pm Saturday, September 23, 2023 9218 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD 20740 Post Banquet Hall with information tables, live music, Luau themed lawn experience with grilled food.

For more information or to be considered for inclusion for this event, please contact Post 217 at 301-441-2783

For more details on the Be the One campaign, please visit <u>betheone.org</u>.

Contact:

Judith Hall, Jr. Commander American Legion Post 217 College Park, MD 20740 AmericanLegionPost217Commander@Gmail.com

Melvin Graves Commander Southern Maryland Region District 5 <u>Melvingraves@hotmail.com</u>

Sean Phelan Sons of America Legion American Legion Post 217 College Park, MD 20740 Hug.a.GI.Post217@gmail.com

The American Legion is the largest wartime veterans service organization with about 1.7 million members in roughly 12,000 posts across the nation. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to service members and veterans. Learn more at <u>legion.org</u>.