



PROCLAMATION

BE THE ONE

Whereas, 18 to 22 military-affiliated Americans are lost to suicide each day; and

Whereas, Veterans are at 58% higher risk of suicide than those who haven't served; and

Whereas, across the nation, change is underway to reduce the number of military-affiliated Americans who are lost to suicide, including the Illinois Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families; and

Whereas, The American Legion's primary mission, Be the One, is a concentrated effort to save the lives of veterans and servicemembers at risk of suicide...one is too many; and

Whereas, September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month—a time to raise awareness, promote hope, and normalize help-seeking; and

Whereas, Veteran organizations (including the American Legion, AMVETS, VFW) and communities across the DeKalb area are participating in the 3rd Annual Be the One Walk on September 20, 2026, to stand together in strength, dignity, hope, and purpose to help save military-affiliated lives.

Now, Therefore, I, Mark Pietrowski, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Cortland, Illinois, by the authority vested in the office, join The DeKalb American Legion Post # 66 and advocates across the country in taking action to prevent Veteran suicide, and do hereby proclaim the day of September 20, 2026, as **"Be the One" Day** in the Town of Cortland, reminding everyone that each day of the year is an opportunity to be the one to save the life of at least one veteran.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Cortland to be affixed on this 24th day of September 2026.

Mark Pietrowski, Jr
Mayor