



STATE OF OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 25, 2025

Contact: Daron Hoggatt, Public Information Officer

Phone: 405-523-4026

Email: Communications@odva.ok.gov

ODVA Invites the Community to Join POST 22: One Mission – Prevent Veteran Suicide

ARDMORE, OK - The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) invites the public to take part in **POST 22: One Mission – Prevent Veteran Suicide**, a day-long community event honoring veterans and raising awareness about the ongoing crisis of veteran suicide. The event is hosted by the Seaman First Class Billy Turner Veterans Cemetery in Ardmore.

Event Details

- **Date:** Monday, September 22, 2025
- **Time:** 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- **Location:** The Marketplace on Broadway, 106 E. Broadway Street, Ardmore, OK 73401

Community Vigil — Standing Post Every 22 Minutes

From sunrise to sunset, community volunteers will stand post at a flag-draped casket in **22-minute shifts**, symbolizing the sobering reality that an estimated 22 veterans die by suicide each day.

The vigil begins at **7:00 AM** with the first volunteer taking a silent watch. Every 22 minutes, a new participant will take their place, ensuring an unbroken chain of remembrance until **7:00 PM**, when the day concludes with the playing of **Taps**.

About the Event

POST 22: One Mission – Prevent Veteran Suicide brings together veterans, families, civic leaders, and community members in a unified effort to:

- Honor the lives lost to veteran suicide
- Break the stigma surrounding mental health
- Share information about crisis resources and veteran support services
- Provide space for fellowship, dialogue, and healing



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Serving those who served

2132 NE 36th STREET * OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73111 * TELEPHONE (405) 523-4000 * FAX (405) 523-4008

“This is our promise that no veteran stands alone,” said **Jamee Cassity, State Veterans Cemetery Programs Administrator**. “POST 22 is a call to our community to come together, honor those we have lost, and help connect veterans and families to resources.”


How to Participate

The event is **free and open to the public**. Civic organizations, veteran service groups, local businesses, and community members are encouraged to take part.

To **volunteer** for a 22-minute post or to support the event, **please contact**:

Jamee Cassity or Deanna Shaw

Seaman First Class Billy Turner Veterans Cemetery

 580-490-6489

 ArdmoreCemetery@odva.ok.gov

About the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs:

The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is dedicated to ensuring that all Oklahoma veterans and their families receive the highest quality services and support. Through a variety of programs, ODVA provides benefits assistance, and other essential services and programs to enhance the well-being of veterans across the state.

###