



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Free Pancake Breakfast for Veterans to Provide Hope and
Resources to Prevent Suicide**

Branson, MO (October 17, 2023) - Taney County Suicide Prevention Network, Brook Wellness Center, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, and the Skaggs Foundation are hosting an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast for veterans at the Branson Rec Plex (Community Room C at 1501 Branson Hills Pkwy) from 8:30 am - 11:00 am on Friday, November 3rd. This event is free for veterans and their plus ones. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness about the risks of suicide among the veteran population. The event will provide free pancakes and coffee, time to socialize, resources and information from a number of speakers, and hope in an effort to prevent suicides.

Missouri veteran suicide rates are nearly three times higher than those of the United States general population (US Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 2020). The Taney County Suicide Prevention Network is focused on outreach to local veterans due to their higher risk for suicide which has recently risen among 18-34 year-old veterans.

The event will feature pancakes and coffee, fellowship, a resource table, and presentations by a number of speakers. Reuben Smith with LPC Faith Community Health, will present "Support of, and Safety Measures for, those experiencing Suicidal Ideation, especially our Veterans." Jacob Shirk, a veteran with Wellness for Warriors, will talk about his agency and the resources it provides for the veteran population of Taney County. Stan Robinson, a veteran, Chaplain, and Clinical Director at Brook Wellness, will speak about his lived experience with a suicide attempt and his subsequent recovery. Brian Seitz, a veteran and member of the Missouri House of Representatives will discuss his work for veterans in District 156. There will be a Q&A following the speakers. Please register to attend at <https://forms.gle/fcSixzcD7L7scFbaA>.

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ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS

The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership's collaborative efforts and programs, visit www.cpozarks.org.