



# VFW Calls on VA Secretary After Second Suicide at VA Facility in 2025

## The following is a message from VFW Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore

Dec 05, 2025

**WASHINGTON** — We are saddened by the tragic loss of a veteran who died by suicide in the parking lot of the Audie L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital yesterday. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who are grieving. Every loss of life in our veteran community is a solemn reminder of the challenges many continue to face.

This heartbreaking incident marks the second veteran suicide at this facility in just eight months, a deeply troubling pattern that cannot be ignored. The VFW was in immediate communication with the office of Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins to express our concern and urge them to take immediate and decisive action. We heard back from the Secretary's office quickly, committing to treat this situation with the seriousness and urgency it demands, providing a "fresh focus on reaching those who need help" across the VA system.

This second tragedy underscores the extreme need for VA to take a hard, comprehensive look at the systems, practices, and culture within this hospital and across the enterprise to ensure veterans in crisis are not falling through the cracks.

The VFW commits to working with VA leadership to undertake a thorough review of outreach efforts, mental wellness support and crisis-response procedures wherever we can. Accountability and compassion from the entire veterans' community must guide every step forward.

As we enter a time of year that can be uniquely difficult for many, we also ask our veteran community to stay connected. Check on your battle buddies, reach out to those who may be struggling, and remind one another that help and hope are always within reach.

Our vigilance, our compassion, and our willingness to act can save lives. The VFW stands

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
Office 816.756.3390  
Fax 816.968.1157

### WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
Office 202.543.2239  
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org  
www.vfw.org

ready to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to strengthen the safety net our veterans deserve.

If you're a veteran in crisis or concerned about one you know, support is available. Contact the VA Crisis Line: Call 988/Press 1; Text 838255; Chat at [veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat](https://veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat).