

**Resolution 1**  
**Mississippi Nurses' Association**  
**108th House of Delegates**  
**Biloxi Convention Center**  
**Biloxi, MS**

**Introduced by:**       **Alena Lester, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, ONP-C, Director,**  
                                  **Council on Health Affairs**  
                                  **on behalf of the MNA Board of Directors**

**RESOLUTION:**       **Support Increasing Awareness of the Role of Nurses in Providing**  
                                  **Healthcare to Military Members, Veterans, and their Families**

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WHEREAS, the Mississippi Nurses' Association recognizes that military members, veterans and their families make incredible sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, more than 28,000 Mississippians exhibit profound courage and selflessness by serving in the active military and reserves<sup>1</sup> and over 162,000 Mississippi veterans have served our Country<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, military members, veterans and their families may have stressors related to frequent moves, absence of the military parent, and the deployment of a parent to a combat zone (which represents a challenge of a different magnitude); and the parent who stays behind can have increased family responsibilities, financial issues, isolation, and fear for their spouse's safety that can cause anxiety, loneliness, sadness, and a feeling of being overwhelmed<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, military children's reactions to a parent's deployment vary by child, and more broadly, by a child's developmental stage, age, and presence of any preexisting psychological or behavioral problems, very young children may exhibit separation anxiety, temper tantrums, and changes in eating habits while school-age children may experience a decline in academic performance, and have mood changes or physical complaints, and adolescents may become angry and act out, or withdraw and show signs of apathy<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, military families may access healthcare services from the civilian healthcare system, nurses need to be aware of the unique stressors associated with military children and families; and

WHEREAS, nurses are committed to the promotion of health and safety issues of the public; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Mississippi Nurses' Association includes working for the improvement of health standards (Article 1; Section 2.A.); and

WHEREAS, the functions of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include promoting, through appropriate means, standards of nursing practice, nursing education, and nursing service (Article 1;Section 3.A.); and

WHEREAS, the functions of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include maintaining communications with members through official publications (Article 1; Section 3.M.).

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness of the role of nurses in providing healthcare to our military members, veterans and their families facing post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, anxiety, and other healthcare issues and ensuring that evidence-based, best practices are used in providing care.

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness of the role of nurses in providing healthcare to our military members, veterans and their families by encouraging expanded opportunities for education on the use of screening tools, risk factor identification, and other appropriate resources.

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness of the role of nurses in providing healthcare to our military members, veterans and their families, as appropriate, through articles in the *MS RN*, information disseminated via email, and information disseminated during continuing education events. Such efforts demonstrate the Mississippi Nurses' Association's respect and honor for those that have and are serving our Country.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense, Number of Military and DoD Appropriated Fund (APF) Civilian Personnel Permanently Assigned, By Duty and Location, (June 30, 2019) [https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dwp/dwp\\_reports.jsp](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dwp/dwp_reports.jsp).

<sup>2</sup> United States Census Bureau, Census Bureau's American Community Survey, (obtained from United States Census Bureau Staff, October 2, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> "How Deployment Stress Affects Children and Families: Research Findings," U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, [https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/treat/specific/deploy\\_stress\\_family.asp](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/treat/specific/deploy_stress_family.asp).