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

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 reserves¹ and over 162,000 Mississippi veterans have served  
our Country²; 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 overwhelmed³; 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 apathy³; 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.

2 United States Census Bureau, Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, (obtained from United States Census Bureau Staff, October 2, 2019).