

*Washington County  
State of Tennessee*

## **PROCLAMATION**

### ***Honoring the American Legion Department of Tennessee 'Be The One' Commission***

**WHEREAS**, on Aug. 16, 2025, the American Legion Department of Tennessee established the Be The One Commission to End Veteran Suicide, guided by the motto "Veterans Offering Lifesaving Service," with a focus on increasing awareness of and encouraging support for the study and treatment of post-traumatic stress (PTS); and

**WHEREAS**, many veterans die by suicide as a direct result of PTS, underscoring the need for informed, community-wide intervention; and

**WHEREAS**, public education on recognizing the signs of PTS and responding effectively is critical in reducing suicide among veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Legion's Be The One mission represents a unified effort to save the lives of veterans and service members at risk of suicide by providing free suicide-prevention training and promoting open and compassionate conversations about mental health; and

**WHEREAS**, data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs shows that, after adjusting for age, the veteran suicide rate in Tennessee remains significantly higher than both the national veteran rate and the general population rate, with veterans accounting for approximately 15 percent of all suicides statewide; and

**WHEREAS**, American Legion Post 24 supports the Be The One mission locally by distributing wallet-sized cards to inform Jonesborough residents of the elevated suicide risk among veterans and to discreetly connect individuals in need with available resources; and

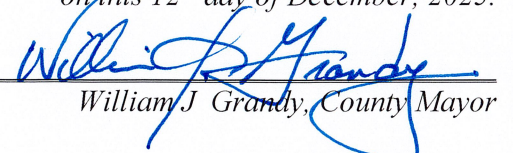
**WHEREAS**, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free, and confidential support for veterans experiencing distress.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, William J Grandy, Mayor of Washington County, Tennessee, in partnership with American Legion Post 24, encourage residents to educate themselves so that, if needed, they are prepared to**

### ***Be The One***

*who can help save the life of a veteran experiencing distress.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Washington County, Tennessee to be affixed in Jonesborough on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

  
William J Grandy, County Mayor