

Cornell University
University Assembly

U.A. Resolution #27

**Urgent Need for the Hiring of a Military Service-Related
CAPS Counselor**

[05/09/2021]

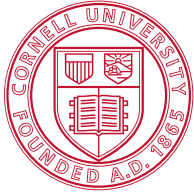
Sponsored by: Logan Kenney, Graduate & Professional Student Representative, ex-officio member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran Affairs (within the Campus Welfare Committee); Christopher Austin '22 JD, Vice President, Cornell Law Veterans Association; Michael Caprietta, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran Affairs; Christopher Denkovic '20 SHA; Jacob Feit, Undergraduate Student Representative, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran Affairs; Mary Mildred Fisk, Student Veteran Advisor & Program Manager; Mitchell Hoy, Veteran Association Liaison to the Cornell University Student Assembly, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran Affairs; Debra Howell, Chair, Cornell Veterans Colleague Network Group; Dakota Johnson '22 SHA, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran Affairs; Jeramy Kruser, Staff Veteran and Communications Director for Team RWB Ithaca; Aubrey Lang, Disability Colleague Network Group co-chair & Team Timmy founder; Philip Kay; Ryan Kokell '17 SHA; Rachelle LaCroix, PhD Candidate, CALS; Mark Minton; Roland Molina, President, Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association; Dennis Morrisroe '21 JD/MBA; Joseph Mullen '24, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran Affairs; Seamus Murphy '17 CALS, Co-Founder of the Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association and Co-Founder and Secretary of the Cornell Military Network; Trent Nachbar '22 JD/MBA, President, Cornell Law Veterans Association; Anthony Nash '22 AAP; Patrick O'Neil '19 CALS; David Outlaw '17 SHA, Co-Founder of the Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association; Luke Opyd '18 ILR; Denesha Record; Paul Rojas '20 Dyson; Michael Sanchez; Patrick Shaffer '22 MBA

Whereas, veterans and military-affiliated individuals experience unique mental health issues that are often different from that of civilian individuals; and

Whereas, the average rate of veteran suicides is nearly twice that of civilians, approximately 22 per day; and

Whereas, Cornell University appears to remain the Ivy League institution with the largest number of suicides per year; and

Whereas, Cornell University has made great strides in hiring more CAPS counselors; but has not hired a veteran or military-trained counselor to our knowledge; and



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Whereas, military sexual trauma (MST) is estimated to occur to 1 in 4 women, and 1 in 100 men in the armed forces, one common cause of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms; and

Whereas, PTSD is a mental health issue developed after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event or trauma, often leaving the veteran managing severe anxiety among other symptoms; and

Whereas, due to the nature of military service, a disproportionate number of veterans experience traumatic brain injury (TBI), a disruption in the normal function of the brain caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or penetrating head injury; and

Whereas, transitioning from military-service back into the civilian world, especially to traditional academia, is a unique and often difficult experience; and

Whereas, this issue falls within the purview of the Campus Welfare Committee under the Bylaws of the University Assembly.

Be it therefore resolved, the University Assembly calls on the Administration to support the hiring of at least one CAPS counselor who is trained in military service-related experiences and trauma; and

Resolved, this individual, or individuals, would have training and experience providing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Prolonged Exposure Therapy for individuals who have experienced military-related trauma; and

Resolved, that in the event Cornell University currently employs a veteran or counselor trained in veteran or military counseling that CAPS work with the veteran organizations in the University to inform the Cornell Community; and

Be it finally resolved, the University Assembly calls on the Administration to direct Cornell Health to hire at least one counselor (preferably a veteran themselves) who can best address the unique issues veterans and military-affiliated individuals experience.

Passed by the University Assembly with 13-0-1