

**Joint Executive Council of Veterans
Organizations of Kentucky
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JECVO of KY

Air Force Association

**Air Force Sergeants
Association**

American Legion

AMVETS

Armed Forces E-9 Assn

DAV

**Fleet Reserve
Association**

Forty & Eight

KY Veterans Hall of Fame

Marine Corps League

**Military Officers
Association of America**

**Military Order of the
Purple Heart**

**Nat'l Assn for Black
Veterans**

Navy League of US

**Operation Stand Down
KY**

**Owensboro-Daviess
County Veterans**

**Paralyzed Veterans of
America**

Task Force Omega

**United Auto Workers
Association**

**Veterans Memorial Park
of Kentucky**

Veterans of Foreign Wars

VFW Auxiliary

**Vietnam Veterans
of America**

Edwin Vincent- Chairman; Sidney Shouse- Vice Chairman
William Davis – Secretary; Bobbie Smith – Finance Officer
Larry Arnett- Legislative Chairman; Dave Jarrett-Public Affairs Officer
Richard Eisert – Legal Advisor; Robert Daugherty- Chaplain
Mike Whitfield- Sergeant-at-Arms

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the twenty-three Veteran Service Organizations represented by the Joint Executive Council of Veterans Organizations of Kentucky (JECVO) provide important and vital services to Kentucky's 295,000 veterans and their families and do so through posts and chapters in every county of the state; and

Whereas, the 'signature wounds' of Iraq and Afghanistan are Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and are both significant health issues needing attention; and

Whereas, Kentucky's large presence of active duty military personnel, National Guard and Reserve units, and veterans highlights the importance of ensuring available treatments for a wide variety of health issues; and

Whereas, Congress has now mandated significant improvements to the mental health care provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs including partnerships with non-federal government entities to provide Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) to veterans for treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); and

Whereas, TBI or PTSD can result from any number of traumatic events, but significantly for veterans it has been caused by roadside bombs, enemy mortar attacks, convoy attacks, or exchanging gun fire while on foot patrol; and

Whereas, published neurological studies and hyperbaric oxygen trials have found that hyperbaric oxygen treatment (HBOT) can repair the brain from traumatic brain injuries and has shown to significantly improve the quality of life of almost all patients (over 95%) after the HBOT sessions; and

Whereas, in 2018 Kentucky joined six other states in passing legislation allowing veterans to receive the HBOT treatment for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder; and

Whereas, Kentucky has several providers capable of providing hyperbaric oxygen therapy throughout the state, with approximately 34 hospital Wound Care Centers equipped with 73 functional hyperbaric chambers,

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE JOINT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS OF KENTUCKY, THIS 5th DAY OF May 2021:

1. The Joint Executive Council of Veteran Organizations of Kentucky requests the Kentucky General Assembly to communicate directly with each of Kentucky's U.S. Congressional Delegation strongly encouraging their support in directing the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to add each of the state's VA Medical Centers to the Center for Compassionate Innovation, enabling them to provide HBOT treatment to veterans with TBI or PTSD. In addition, the VA should be strongly encouraged to contract with eligible providers who can provide this treatment in reasonable travel distance for the veteran and pay for this critical care.
2. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to Governor Andy Beshear, Chairman of the Senate and House Veterans, Military Affairs, & Public Protection Committees, and Commissioner Keith Jackson, Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs.



Edwin Vincent
Chairman