



## Orange County News

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For Immediate Release  
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**District Attorney Hoovler and the Hudson Valley VA Healthcare System  
Announce that the Orange County Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition will  
be at the Thruway Sporting Goods Annual Fishing Event to Distribute  
Veteran information.**

*District Attorney Hoovler joined Hudson Valley VA Healthcare System to create a  
Coalition to Prevent Veterans from Committing Suicide in November 2021*

District Attorney David M. Hoovler, and both Carl LoFaro and Lenox Okall from the Hudson Valley VA Healthcare System announced that the Orange County Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition will put out a veteran information table during the Thruway Sporting Goods Annual Fishing Event to hand out veteran crisis materials and veteran benefit information. There will be information on Middletown Vet Center and Heroes, Cowboys & Companions as well. The event is on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am until 3pm and will be held at Thruway Sporting Goods located at 78 Oak Street Walden, New York. This event will feature raffles, special fishing tackle sales, door prizes and industry reps from Pure Fishing to give advice on fishing products, so bring the kids to join in the fun! The coalition has already placed over 50,000 suicide prevention materials in over 1,300 businesses and organizations located near Orange County, New York. The coalition hopes to reach even more people with their message at this year's fishing event. In addition, the District Attorney's office will have booklets to pass out on preventing senior citizen fraud and materials on the opioid crisis with a view towards preventing drug use by our young people. Information on the sixth Orange County District Attorney's Youth Fishing Derby which starts April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, will also be available.

The Orange County Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition is trying to reach as many veterans and their families as possible with their suicide prevention message. Since fishing events draw large crowds, many of whom are veterans, this event is a great place to meet veterans who might not have seen the materials we have placed out in public already. Representatives of the Hudson Valley VA Healthcare System, the Orange County District Attorney's Office and Middletown

Vet Center will be on site if anyone would like to discuss the information in our handouts or set up a future meeting to speak to a group live about suicide prevention. The coalition has already been to several veteran organizations and sportsmen's clubs to speak about suicide prevention and are looking to speak to more interested groups in the future.

“I am proud of the work that the Orange County Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition has done for Orange County veterans and their families and of the strong support that has been provided to the coalition by the citizens and businesses of Orange County including Thruway Sporting Goods, Thruway Ace Hardware & Home Center and Pure Fishing.” said District Attorney David M. Hoovler. Please come out to the event and support our veterans! If you or your organization would like any veteran crisis materials or information about any of the other Veterans groups helping us in Orange County, please stop by our table. The coalition will be happy to assist you. You can also contact Mr. Carl LoFaro of the Hudson Valley VA Healthcare System at [carl.lofaro@va.gov](mailto:carl.lofaro@va.gov) to get crisis materials sent to you or to set up a live meeting with your organization on this serious subject. Contact Mr. Lenox Okall of the Hudson Valley VA Healthcare System at [lenox.okall@va.gov](mailto:lenox.okall@va.gov) if you need information on VA benefits. For information on Middletown Vet Center please contact [Joel.Murns@va.gov](mailto:Joel.Murns@va.gov) Please contact Dwayne or Jacque for information about how Heroes, Cowboys & Companions help veterans and first responders at [heroesandcowboys@gmail.com](mailto:heroesandcowboys@gmail.com) Please contact Thruway Sporting Goods at 1 (845) 778 - 1400 if you have any questions about the fishing event. Enjoy this great annual fishing event and our wonderful outdoors! We hope to see you there!