

*State of Texas*  
*County of Williamson*  
*Know all men by these presents.*

THAT ON THIS, the 8th day of September 2009, the Commissioners' Court of Williamson County, Texas, met in duly called session at the Courthouse in Georgetown, with the following members present;

Dan A. Gattis, County Judge  
Lisa L. Birkman, Commissioner, Precinct One  
Cynthia Long, Commissioner, Precinct Two  
Valerie Covey, Commissioner, Precinct Three  
Ron Morrison, Commissioner, Precinct Four

And at said meeting, among other business, the Court considered the following

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Williamson County recognizes suicide as a public health problem, and suicide prevention as a community responsibility; and  
**WHEREAS**, suicide is the 11th leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the 3rd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 to 24; and  
**WHEREAS**, suicide is now the 9th leading cause of all deaths in the state of Texas, and the 3rd leading cause of death among people from the age 15 to 24 in Texas; and  
**WHEREAS**, in the United States, one person completes suicide every 16 minutes; and  
**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that 5 million people in the United States are survivors of suicide (those who have lost a loved one to suicide); and  
**WHEREAS**, the overall suicide rate in our country has only slightly declined from record highs in recent years, the suicide rate for those 15-24 years old has more than doubled since the mid-1950s; and the suicide rate remains highest for adults 75 years of age and older; and  
**WHEREAS**, Nearly 20 percent of military service members who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan — 300,000 in all — report symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder or major depression, yet only slightly more than half have sought treatment according to a Rand study of veterans in 2008; and  
**WHEREAS**, male veterans in the general U.S. population are twice as likely as their civilian peers to die by suicide, according to a study published in the July 2007 issue of the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*; and  
**WHEREAS**, approximately 75% of all persons committing suicide give some warning of their intentions and the number of calls to crisis hotline services in Central Texas have increased by 53% during 2009; and  
**WHEREAS**, depression and mental distress are the leading causes of suicide attempts and 15% of Americans will suffer from depression in their lifetime; and  
**WHEREAS**, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide; and  
**WHEREAS**, the State of Texas appropriated \$82 million dollars in 2007 to enhance the crisis services in the state supporting the development of the crisis respite unit in Georgetown, allowing 24-hour access to a toll-free crisis hotline, and expanding the mobile crisis outreach services in Williamson County; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Williamson County Mental Health Task Force, with a grant from the Texas Health Institute, has developed a Web site [www.wilcomentalhealth.org](http://www.wilcomentalhealth.org) to provide free, 24-hour information about national, state and local resources available to people experiencing mental health issue including suicide prevention;

**THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that, I, Dan A. Gattis, County Judge of Williamson County, do hereby designate September 6h through September 12th, 2009 as "**National Suicide Prevention Week**" in Williamson County.

**RESOLVED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2009**

Attest:

*Nancy E. Rister*



Nancy E. Rister  
Williamson County Clerk

Dan A. Gattis  
Williamson County Judge