FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOC Hires Director of Behavioral Health to Lead Suicide Awareness/Prevention Initiatives

Rochester, NY – With veteran suicide continuing to be a problem in the United States, Veterans Outreach Center has hired Roderick Castle as their Director of Behavioral Health. Roderick will be responsible for many aspects of veteran behavioral health, including suicide prevention initiatives, trauma-informed practices, acting as a liaison within the community in matters related to behavioral health and being a first responder to mental health incidents.

“Nothing is more important than the health and safety of the brave men and women who fought for our freedoms,” Veterans Outreach Center Executive Director and U.S. Army Veteran Laura Stradley said. “According to the Department of Veteran Affairs 2019 annual report on veteran suicide, more than 6,000 veterans committed suicide each year from 2008 to 2017, and veterans are 1.5 times more likely to commit suicide than nonveterans. This is an epidemic we cannot stand for, and we believe that having Roderick on our team will be of great benefit to all veterans.”

Roderick is a NY licensed Creative Arts Therapist with the American Art Therapy Board Credentials Board, and he is certified in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI), Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), and Mental Health First Aid. Roderick is also a member of the Rochester Threat Advisement Committee (ROCTAC) and is working toward certification with the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals. He is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and brings more than twenty years of practical experience to VOC.

Veterans Outreach Center is grateful for those who share their time, treasure, and talent. Any of these will help continue VOC’s exceptional services during these difficult times. Visit vocroc.org for a list of opportunities. Together, our dedication to supporting veterans must be unwavering.

Since 1973, Veterans Outreach Center has been committed to improving the quality of life for Veterans and their families by offering free, Veteran-specific services, including employment counseling, vocational training and housing for homeless veterans. For more information about VOC services please call 585.546.1081 or visit www.vocroc.org.

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