



Media Advisory
Future Date: March 30, 2005

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Floridians Rally in Tallahassee for Suicide Prevention

Florida Task Force on Suicide Prevention

Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition

WHO:

The Florida Suicide Prevention Task Force and Coalition will host the 3rd annual "Day at the Capitol." The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition is a grassroots organization **representing crisis centers, educational and training organizations, mental health associations, advocacy groups, law enforcement training and support, youth educational programs and survivors** dedicated to the elimination of suicide in Florida. Governor and Mrs. Bush serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the coalition.

WHAT:

Governor Bush has proclaimed March 30th "Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day." The Governor and First Lady will hold a press conference at 1:30 to roll out the state Suicide Prevention Strategy – ***The strategy is designed to serve as both a guide and action agenda, to have a lasting impact in bringing suicide to the forefront as a public issue, and over time to save thousands of lives that would otherwise be taken by their own hands.***

Concerned citizens and coalition members will gather to host Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day at the State Capitol featuring **Lifekeeper Memory Quilts depicting "Faces of Suicide," Rotunda displays including suicide prevention materials, community resources, educational programs, crisis centers and support materials for survivors of suicide.** Grassroots advocates will deliver educational packets to all members of the Florida House and Senate, increasing awareness and asking for support of two suicide prevention bills which, if passed, will create a Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.

WHEN: *Wednesday, March 30* – Florida Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day **8:30 – 4:00**

1:30pm - Governor and Mrs. Bush - Press Conference

WHERE: **Displays:** Florida State Capitol - Rotunda
Press Conference will be held on the Lower Level of the Capitol, outside the Cabinet meeting room.

WHY: Suicide takes a tremendous toll on our Florida families and communities. In 2003, suicide claimed the lives of 2,294 Floridians, an average of 44 suicide deaths a week. **More than twice as many Floridians die by suicide than by homicide.** Through education and awareness we can help reduce the suicide rate in our state and help enable all Floridians to experience the full potential that life has to offer.