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PRESS RELEASE: *Latest Case of Social Media Censorship Puts Veterans Lives Directly At Risk*

Over the past 30 months, we've heard about countless cases of censorship of right-of-center voices across several social media platforms, as well as payment gateways and even banking institutions. The most recent case of censorship, directly related to the wellbeing of US military veterans, is one that President Trump should immediately be made aware of.

For the second time in two weeks, SSG Douglas M. Ducote, Sr., retired US Army, veteran law enforcement officer, and media personality with over 200,000 followers and more than 15 million video views, was suspended from Facebook Monday, July 22, 2019. Both suspensions were issued because Doug posted a screenshot of another suspension he had received on Twitter, along with his rebuttal to the social media giant. In the past few months, Ducote has experienced increased censorship across all social media platforms. Recently, YouTube flagged one of Ducote's videos which discussed long wait times and dropped calls on the national veterans suicide hotline.

Throughout his two-decade military career, Ducote deployed four times in direct support of combat operations for Golden Pheasant, Just Cause, Desert Storm, and Iraqi Freedom. Doug proudly served under four US Presidents: Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush.

In 2011, Douglas founded 'Veterans United for Justice,' a not-for-profit organization. Over the years, Ducote has helped veterans navigate the complexities of the Veterans Administration, manage suicidal urges, find counseling, and adjust back to life after war through a variety of uplifting activities including attending concerts, complete with backstage VIP access, along with other combat veterans.

Ducote's wife, Marilyn Ducote, a Licensed Professional Counselor and PTSD clinician, helps manage some of the cases. "Doug and his team have talked many veterans out of the suicide route. He has spent countless late nights on the phone, computer, and Facebook helping these veterans," said Marilyn.

"My main focus with 'Veterans United for Justice' is to give veterans a reason to live another day and not feel that their service and sacrifice was in vain," said Ducote, a larger than life character.

Douglas was first suspended from Facebook for 7 days and then, almost immediately upon returning to the social media platform, was suspended for an additional 30 days. This time, Ducote was locked out of his 'Veterans United for Justice' Facebook Page which has over 7,000 followers.

Heartbroken, upset, and in shock, Ducote said, "I used that page to help veterans adjust back to life after war and to feel their service was appreciated."

President Trump recently hosted a social media summit that featured a panel of high profile media and new media personalities. The issue of conservative censorship is real and will likely play a role in the 2020 elections. Currently, Attorney General William Barr is investigating anti-trust activities connected to several of the big tech giants. While Ducote believes this is a positive step in the right direction, this case of censorship, which has nothing to do with politics, needs to be addressed immediately. Veterans, including combat, PTSD, and suicidal, have lost a place to congregate and counsel each other, and real lives are now at risk.

President Trump, a strong and vocal supporter of the military and veterans, should address this case of censorship from the Presidential podium. Please help us get this message to the President.