

1 SJR82  
2 176183-2  
3 By Senators Dial, Whatley, Williams, Albritton, Allen,  
4 Beasley, Blackwell, Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss,  
5 Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Figures, Glover, Hightower, Holley,  
6 Holtzclaw, Livingston, Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman,  
7 Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Scofield, Shelnuttt, Singleton,  
8 Smith, Smitherman, Stutts, Waggoner and Ward  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 07-APR-16

1 SJR82

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4 ENROLLED, SJR82,

5 RECOGNIZING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS.  
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7 WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United  
8 States Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States and  
9 risk their lives to protect our freedom, deserve the  
10 investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting  
11 physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

12 WHEREAS, the challenges of serving in combat for  
13 many of our veterans do not stop when they return home, but a  
14 new challenge begins that many of our servicemen and women  
15 must fight every day as they struggle in silence; and

16 WHEREAS, the diagnosis now known as Post-Traumatic  
17 Stress Disorder (PTSD) was first defined to commonly and more  
18 accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured  
19 severe traumatic combat stress; and

20 WHEREAS, combat operational stress has historically  
21 been viewed as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw  
22 of character and/or ability, and the term "Post-Traumatic  
23 Stress Disorder (PTSD)" carries a stigma that perpetuates this  
24 misconception; and

1           WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress can occur not only  
2 after a traumatic event experienced in combat, but also rape,  
3 sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse,  
4 car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, and/or  
5 natural disaster; and

6           WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress is a very common  
7 injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable; and

8           WHEREAS, referring to the complications from  
9 post-traumatic stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of  
10 and bias against mental illness, and the stigma discourages  
11 those suffering from post-traumatic stress from seeking proper  
12 and timely medical treatment; and

13           WHEREAS, making the condition less stigmatizing and  
14 more honorable can favorably influence those affected and  
15 encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution or  
16 shame; and

17           WHEREAS, proper and timely treatment can diminish  
18 suicide rates; and

19           WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from post-traumatic  
20 stress injury deserve our consideration, those who have  
21 received these wounds in service to our nation further deserve  
22 our respect and recognition; now therefore,

23           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That June 27, 2016, is recognized  
25 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in Alabama and

1 June 2016 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month; we  
2 respectfully urge the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs,  
3 the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Adjutant  
4 General of the Alabama National Guard to continue working to  
5 educate service members, veterans, the families of service  
6 members and veterans, victims of abuse, crime and natural  
7 disaster, and the general public about the causes, symptoms,  
8 and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury and respectfully  
9 request the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House  
10 to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR82  
Senate 07-APR-16  
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris  
Secretary

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 12-APR-16

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By: Senator Dial