

1 SR10  
2 181348-1  
3 By Senators Dial and McClendon  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 07-FEB-17

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8 RECOGNIZING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS  
9 IN ALABAMA.

10  
11 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess  
12 the basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States deserve  
15 the investment of every possible resource to ensure their  
16 lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

17 WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United  
18 States Armed Forces who proudly serve the United States risk  
19 their lives to protect our freedom; and

20 WHEREAS, the diagnosis now known as Post-Traumatic  
21 Stress Disorder (PTSD) was first defined by the American  
22 Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more  
23 accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured  
24 severe traumatic combat stress; and

25 WHEREAS, combat stress has historically been viewed  
26 as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw of character

1 and ability; the word "disorder" carries a stigma that  
2 perpetuates this misconception; and

3 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) can  
4 occur after experiencing a severely traumatic event to  
5 include, but not be exclusive to, sexual assault, child abuse,  
6 high-impact collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of  
7 terrorism, and military combat; and

8 WHEREAS, PTSI is a very common injury to the brain  
9 that is treatable and repairable; and

10 WHEREAS, referring to the complications from  
11 post-traumatic stress as a disorder perpetuates stigma of and  
12 bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage  
13 the injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment;  
14 and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve  
21 our compassion and consideration; those who have received  
22 these wounds in action against an enemy of the United States  
23 further deserve our tribute and acknowledgement; now  
24 therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF  
26 ALABAMA, That June 27, 2017, is recognized as Post-Traumatic  
27 Stress Injury Awareness Day and that June 2017 is recognized

1 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month in the State  
2 of Alabama.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we respectfully  
4 encourage the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama  
5 Military Department, and the Alabama Department of Veterans  
6 Affairs to continue working to educate victims of abuse,  
7 crime, natural disaster, service members, veterans and their  
8 families, and the general public about the causes, symptoms,  
9 and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury; and request  
10 that the Secretary of the Alabama Senate transmit a copy of  
11 this resolution to the Governor of Alabama.