

**Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3024
(Representatives Hogan, D. Johnson, Maragos, J. Nelson)
(Senators Bekkedahl, Mathern)
(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

A concurrent resolution declaring June 27, 2017, and each June 27 thereafter, as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" and the month of June 2017, and each June thereafter, as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month".

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as posttraumatic stress disorder was first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress; and

WHEREAS, combat stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw of character or ability and the word "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

WHEREAS, posttraumatic stress injury can occur after experiencing a severely traumatic event, including sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat; and

WHEREAS, posttraumatic stress injury is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Cares Coalition and state agencies, including the Department of Human Services, the State Department of Health, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, continue to educate victims of abuse, crime, and natural disaster, and their families; service members; veterans, their families, and survivors; and the general public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of posttraumatic stress injury; and

WHEREAS, referring to the complications from posttraumatic stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, making posttraumatic stress injury less stigmatizing and more honorable can favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution or shame; and

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

WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from posttraumatic stress injury deserve our compassion and consideration, those who have received these wounds in action against an enemy of the United States further deserve our tribute and acknowledgment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly declares June 27, 2017, and each June 27 thereafter, as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" and the month of June 2017, and each June thereafter, as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month".

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2017,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State