
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 230 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY MURT, READSHAW, HILL-EVANS, BAKER, BIZZARRO,
V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, COX, DAVIS, DEAN, DIGIROLAMO,
DRISCOLL, DUSH, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, A. HARRIS, HENNESSEY,
KAUFFMAN, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, McNEILL, MILLARD,
NEILSON, PICKETT, QUIGLEY, ROTHMAN, ROZZI, RYAN, SAINATO,
SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, SIMS, SONNEY, TOOIL, WARD, WHEELAND
AND FARRY, APRIL 10, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 10, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2017 as "Military Service-Related
2 Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month" in
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The brave men and women of the United States Armed
5 Forces, who proudly serve the United States and risk their lives
6 to protect our freedom, deserve the investment of every possible
7 resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental and emotional
8 well-being; and

9 WHEREAS, The challenges of serving in combat do not stop for
10 many veterans when they return home; and

11 WHEREAS, A new challenge begins for many of our servicemen
12 and servicewomen, who may struggle in silence daily; and

13 WHEREAS, Beginning with the ravages of the Civil War, a war-
14 related syndrome has been identified and called various names,
15 including "shell shock" during World War I and "battle fatigue"

1 during World War II; and

2 WHEREAS, Since the Vietnam Conflict in the 1960s and 1970s,
3 the syndrome has been known as post-traumatic stress disorder or
4 PTSD; and

5 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress disorder has historically been
6 viewed as a mental illness caused by a preexisting flaw in the
7 individual's brain or character, and the term carries a stigma
8 that perpetuates this misconception; and

9 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress injury can occur as a result
10 of trauma an individual has experienced such as the stress of
11 combat, rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement,
12 child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes,
13 bombings or natural disasters; and

14 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress is a very common injury to the
15 brain that is treatable and repairable; and

16 WHEREAS, Referring to post-traumatic stress injury as a
17 disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental
18 illness; and

19 WHEREAS, This stigma discourages those suffering from post-
20 traumatic stress from seeking proper and timely medical
21 treatment; and

22 WHEREAS, Eliminating this stigma can favorably influence
23 those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of
24 retribution or shame; and

25 WHEREAS, Veterans currently returning from service in
26 Afghanistan and Iraq are experiencing a high incidence of post-
27 traumatic stress injury; and

28 WHEREAS, A study published in 2010 in the *American Journal of*
29 *Public Health* revealed that more than one-third of soldiers
30 returning from Afghanistan and Iraq are diagnosed with a mental

1 health disorder; and

2 WHEREAS, Of these soldiers, nearly 22% were diagnosed with
3 post-traumatic stress injury; and

4 WHEREAS, Caused by the horrors experienced during war, post-
5 traumatic stress injury has an insidious effect on the health of
6 individuals; and

7 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress injury causes emotional,
8 social, physical, spiritual and communication challenges for
9 both the veterans suffering from the disorder and their loved
10 ones; and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals with post-traumatic stress injury have
12 difficulty sleeping and experience all the tangential mental and
13 physical effects of sleep deprivation, feel more irritable and
14 are prone to unexpected or inexplicable outbursts of anger, have
15 difficulty concentrating, expect the worst, feel that danger is
16 imminent and are easily startled; and

17 WHEREAS, Families of individuals who have post-traumatic
18 stress injury experience more unhappiness, marital strife,
19 anxiety and childhood and adolescent behavioral problems than
20 families that do not have to cope with the illness; and

21 WHEREAS, Less than 40% of veterans suffering from post-
22 traumatic stress injury seek help; and

23 WHEREAS, The National Center for Posttraumatic Stress
24 Disorder within the Department of Veterans Affairs aims to
25 advance the clinical care and social welfare of veterans through
26 research, education and training on post-traumatic stress injury
27 and stress-related illnesses and provides educational resources
28 for veterans and health care providers, researchers and the
29 general public through its Internet website; and

30 WHEREAS, The month of May has been designated by the Congress

1 of the United States as "National Military Appreciation Month"
2 to remember those who gave their lives in defense of freedom and
3 to honor the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who
4 have served and are currently serving this country; and

5 WHEREAS, It is fitting during this month in which "VE Day,"
6 "Military Spouse Day," "Loyalty Day," "Armed Forces Day" and
7 "Memorial Day" are observed to reflect on this serious injury
8 that affects many of our veterans and their families so that we
9 may renew and increase our awareness of post-traumatic stress
10 injury; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
12 month of May 2017 as "Military Service-Related Post-Traumatic
13 Stress Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend the
16 Adjutant General and the Department of Military and Veterans
17 Affairs for working to educate service members, veterans,
18 families of service members and veterans, victims of abuse,
19 crime and natural disaster and the general public about the
20 causes, symptoms and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.