
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 873 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY FABRIZIO, O'BRIEN, SCHLOSSBERG, READSHAW, McNEILL,
MURT, DiGIROLAMO, MIRABITO, COHEN, LUCAS, KIM, KILLION,
CALTAGIRONE, GODSHALL, KOTIK, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, BAKER,
BIZZARRO, DAVIS, WHEATLEY, FREEMAN, STERN, BARRAR, VEREB,
PASHINSKI, WATSON, JAMES, V. BROWN, YOUNGBLOOD, MILLARD,
SCAVELLO, DONATUCCI, SONNEY, MATZIE, BOBACK, KAUFFMAN,
McGEEHAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, HARKINS, FRANKEL, HAHN, MAJOR,
C. HARRIS, GOODMAN, ROSS, NEILSON, KIRKLAND, PAINTER,
O'NEILL, MAHONEY, EVERETT, SANTARSIERO, GIBBONS, HAGGERTY,
HENNESSEY, THOMAS, SABATINA, KORTZ AND BISHOP, JUNE 2, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 2, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2014 as "National Post-Traumatic
2 Stress Disorder Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD is a
4 psychiatric disorder that is often misunderstood and its
5 prevalence is frequently underestimated; and

6 WHEREAS, PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can develop after
7 exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal in which there is a
8 potential for or actual occurrence of grave physical harm; and

9 WHEREAS, Traumatic events that may trigger PTSD include
10 violent personal assaults, natural or human-caused disasters,
11 accidents and military combat; and

12 WHEREAS, PTSD affects nearly 7.7 million Americans, and
13 approximately 20% of veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan

1 suffer from PTSD and two-thirds do not seek treatment; and

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

7 WHEREAS, More than 2 million service members have deployed
8 overseas as part of overseas contingency operations since the
9 events of September 11, 2001; and

10 WHEREAS, The military has sustained an operational tempo for
11 a period of time unprecedented in the history of the United
12 States, with many service members deploying multiple times to
13 combat zones, placing them at high risk of PTSD; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs
15 reports that since October 2001, more than 286,000 of the
16 approximately 900,000 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom,
17 Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn who have used
18 Department of Veterans Affairs health care have been coded for
19 PTSD; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
21 Veterans Affairs, in fiscal year 2011, more than 475,000 of the
22 nearly 6 million veterans from all wars who sought care at a
23 Department of Veterans Affairs medical center received treatment
24 for PTSD; and

25 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs
26 reports that of veterans who served in Operation Enduring
27 Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn who are
28 using Veterans Affairs health care, more than 486,000, or 54%,
29 have received a diagnosis for at least one mental health
30 disorder; and

1 WHEREAS, Many cases of PTSD remain unreported, undiagnosed
2 and untreated due to a lack of awareness about PTSD and the
3 persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions; and

4 WHEREAS, Symptoms of PTSD vary from person to person and can
5 affect people differently; and

6 WHEREAS, Some common symptoms include upsetting memories,
7 anger, irritability, emotional numbness and nightmares; and

8 WHEREAS, PTSD significantly increases the risk of depression,
9 suicide and drug-and-alcohol-related disorders and deaths,
10 especially if left untreated; and

11 WHEREAS, Families of persons who have PTSD experience more
12 unhappiness, marital strife, anxiety and childhood and
13 adolescent behavioral problems than families that do not have to
14 cope with this disorder; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Departments of Defense and
16 Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the
17 prevention, diagnosis and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of
18 PTSD, but many challenges remain; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Center for Posttraumatic Stress
20 Disorder within the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
21 aims to advance the clinical care and social welfare of United
22 States veterans through research, education and training on PTSD
23 and stress-related disorders and provides educational resources
24 for veterans and also for health care providers, researchers and
25 the general public through its Internet website; and

26 WHEREAS, The establishment of a National Post-Traumatic
27 Stress Disorder Awareness Month in Pennsylvania will raise
28 public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma
29 associated with PTSD and help ensure that those suffering from
30 this disorder receive proper treatment; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June
2 2014 as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness
3 Month" in Pennsylvania and support the efforts of many
4 organizations to educate the public about the causes, symptoms
5 and treatment of PTSD.