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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 922 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY MURT, BENNINGHOFF, BIZZARRO, R. BROWN, BURNS,  
CALTAGIRONE, COX, DEAN, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL,  
EVERETT, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, LONGIETTI,  
MILLARD, NEILSON, PICKETT, QUIGLEY, M. QUINN, READSHAW,  
ROTHMAN, RYAN, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, TOOHL  
AND WARREN, MAY 17, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 17, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2018 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"  
16 during World War II; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16       WHEREAS, Families of individuals who have post-traumatic  
17 stress injury experience more unhappiness, marital strife,  
18 anxiety and childhood and adolescent behavioral problems; and

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

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

28       WHEREAS, The month of May has been designated by the Congress  
29 of the United States as "National Military Appreciation Month"  
30 to remember those who gave their lives in defense of freedom and

1 to honor the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who  
2 have served and are currently serving this country; and

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

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
10 month of May 2018 as "Military Service-Related Post-Traumatic  
11 Stress Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
12 further

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