
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 949 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MURT, SONNEY, RYAN, KULIK, KAUFFMAN, READSHAW,
SCHMITT, LONGIETTI, McNEILL, COX, MERSKI, JAMES, THOMAS,
HOHENSTEIN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, ROZZI, DELLOSO, GALLOWAY, HILL-
EVANS, BURNS, BROWN AND MACKENZIE, JULY 14, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JULY 14, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2020 as "Military Service-
2 Related 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

17 WHEREAS, Since the Vietnam Conflict in the 1960s and 1970s,

1 the syndrome has been known as post-traumatic stress disorder or
2 PTSD; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, Of these soldiers, nearly 22% were diagnosed with

1 post-traumatic stress injury; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, It is fitting to reflect on this serious injury that
28 affects many of our veterans and their families so that we may
29 renew and increase our awareness of post-traumatic stress
30 injury; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
2 month of September 2020 as "Military Service-Related Post-
3 Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be
4 it further

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend the
6 Adjutant General and the Department of Military and Veterans
7 Affairs for working to educate service members, veterans,
8 families of servicemembers and veterans, victims of abuse, crime
9 and natural disaster and the general public about the causes,
10 symptoms and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.