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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 410 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, ERICKSON, GREENLEAF, FONTANA, BOSCOLA,  
DINNIMAN, WASHINGTON, BRUBAKER, TEPLITZ, FERLO AND STACK,  
JUNE 16, 2014

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 16, 2014

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

15 WHEREAS, The brave men and women of the United States Armed  
16 Forces, who proudly serve their country, risk their lives to  
17 protect the freedom of the United States and deserve the

1 investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting  
2 physical, mental and emotional well-being; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, Symptoms of PTSD vary from person to person and can

1 affect people differently; and

2 WHEREAS, Some common symptoms include upsetting memories,  
3 anger, irritability, emotional numbness and nightmares; and

4 WHEREAS, PTSD significantly increases the risk of depression,  
5 suicide and drug-and-alcohol-related disorders and deaths,  
6 especially if left untreated; and

7 WHEREAS, Families of persons who have PTSD experience more  
8 unhappiness, marital strife, anxiety and childhood and  
9 adolescent behavioral problems than families that do not have to  
10 cope with this disorder; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States Departments of Defense and  
12 Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the  
13 prevention, diagnosis and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of  
14 PTSD, but many challenges remain; and

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

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

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate June 2014 as "National  
28 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania  
29 and support the efforts of many organizations to educate the  
30 public about the causes, symptoms and treatment of PTSD.