

2021 -- H 6414

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING JUNE 27TH TO BE POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY AND
THE MONTH OF JUNE AS POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS MONTH IN
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Vella-Wilkinson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski,
Azzinaro, Filippi, and Solomon

Date Introduced: June 10, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, All citizens of the United States possess the basic human right to the
2 preservation of personal dignity; and

3 WHEREAS, All citizens of the United States deserve the investment of every possible
4 resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

5 WHEREAS, The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who proudly
6 serve the United States risk their lives to protect our freedom; and

7 WHEREAS, The diagnosis, now known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), was
8 first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980, to commonly and more accurately
9 understand and treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress; and

10 WHEREAS, Combat stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by a
11 pre-existing flaw of character and/or ability; and the word "disorder" carries a stigma that
12 perpetuates this misconception; and

13 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) can occur after experiencing a severely
14 traumatic event and may include, but is not limited to, sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact
15 collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat; and

16 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) is a very common injury to the brain that
17 is treatable and repairable; and

18 WHEREAS, Referring to the complications from post-traumatic stress as a disorder
19 perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the

1 injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

2 WHEREAS, Making post-traumatic stress less stigmatizing and more honorable can
3 favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution or
4 shame; and

5 WHEREAS, Proper and timely treatment of post-traumatic stress can diminish suicide
6 rates; and

7 WHEREAS, All citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress deserve our compassion
8 and consideration. Those who have received these wounds in action against an enemy of the
9 United States further deserve our tribute and acknowledgement; and

10 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Health and Office of Veterans Affairs
11 must continue working to educate victims of abuse, crime and natural disasters, service members,
12 veterans and their families, as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms, and
13 treatment of post-traumatic stress injuries; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
15 designates June 27th of 2021, to be Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day in Rhode Island, and
16 designates the Month of June to be Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel McKee, Governor of the
19 State of Rhode Island, Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Director, Rhode Department of
20 Health, and Kasim Yarn, Director, Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs.

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