
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 922 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, SAINATO, BOBACK, BROOKS, BURNS, COX,
T. DAVIS, DELLOSO, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, JAMES, KAUFFMAN,
KINSEY, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, McNEILL, MILLARD, MURT, PICKETT,
POLINCHOCK, READSHAW, ROZZI, RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHMITT,
SONNEY, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD AND MACKENZIE, JUNE 23, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JUNE 23, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 27, 2020, as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury
2 Awareness Day" and the month of June 2020 as "Post-Traumatic
3 Stress Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, United States citizens have the basic human right to
5 the preservation of personal dignity; and

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

9 WHEREAS, We owe trauma-exposed individuals and their families
10 appropriate medical and supportive care and the greatest degree
11 of compassion to sustain their dignity and our shared humanity;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, We have a role in the recovery of Holocaust
14 survivors and other persons in the aftermath of violent,
15 traumatic or life-threatening events; and

16 WHEREAS, We must direct our unified efforts to the complex

1 invisible wounds military personnel carry during wars and
2 postwar periods; and

3 WHEREAS, These invisible wounds, incurred from experiencing
4 or witnessing traumatic events, were once characterized as a
5 sign of weakness; and

6 WHEREAS, Stigma and self-stigma still surround post-traumatic
7 stress injury; and

8 WHEREAS, Timely and appropriate treatment can reduce
9 complications and suicidal behaviors; and

10 WHEREAS, Certain individuals may seek assistance under the
11 Americans with Disabilities Act; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1980, the American Psychiatric Association (APA)
13 formulated post-traumatic stress disorder criteria; and

14 WHEREAS, The APA published its findings in the Diagnostic and
15 Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Third Edition; and

16 WHEREAS, Separately, brain scans show that traumatic stress
17 causes neurological damage consistent with injury; and

18 WHEREAS, Public health officials and mental health
19 professionals are using the term "post-traumatic stress injury"
20 to describe the biological, psychological and social effects of
21 persistent traumatic stress; and

22 WHEREAS, Bertram Brown, MD, MPH, Rear Admiral (Retired)
23 United States Public Health Service, has stated that the "stigma
24 of 'disorder' as contrasted with the clarity of 'injury' will
25 serve not only the military but impact our whole society"; and

26 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's health care community is now
27 experiencing extreme and unprecedented daily emotional trauma
28 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June
30 27, 2020, as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" and

1 the month of June 2020 as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request the
4 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Department of
5 Health, the Department of Human Services and county Mental
6 Health and Developmental Services to continue their work on
7 behalf of individuals and families with trauma histories; and be
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
10 the Governor and the Secretary of the Commonwealth.