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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 380 Session of 2015

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INTRODUCED BY FABRIZIO, ROZZI, MILLARD, PICKETT, DONATUCCI, KINSEY, BAKER, McNEILL, KIRKLAND, THOMAS, R. BROWN, BISHOP, VEREB, WHEELAND, CALTAGIRONE, MATZIE, BENNINGHOFF, BIZZARRO, EMRICK, SAINATO, DRISCOLL, SCHLOSSBERG, HEFFLEY, BOBACK, DUSH, SONNEY, FREEMAN, WATSON, SCHLEGEL CULVER, YOUNGBLOOD, LONGIETTI, SCHREIBER, MURT, COHEN, O'BRIEN, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, ROSS, GIBBONS, PAYNE, GOODMAN, A. HARRIS, MACKENZIE, BROWNLEE, MAHONEY, FARINA, READSHAW, DeLUCA, HENNESSEY, HARKINS, C. PARKER, BARBIN, SABATINA, TOOIL, FARRY, FRANKEL, KORTZ, GINGRICH, D. COSTA, QUINN, JOZWIAK, ELLIS, WARD, BRADFORD AND MARSICO, JUNE 8, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 8, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2015 as "Post-Traumatic Stress  
2 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

1 suffer from PTSD, and two-thirds do not seek treatment; and  
2 WHEREAS, The brave men and women of the United States Armed  
3 Forces, who proudly serve their country, risk their lives to  
4 protect the freedom of the United States and deserve the  
5 investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting  
6 physical, mental and emotional well-being; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 WHEREAS, Symptoms of PTSD vary from person to person and can  
5 affect people differently; and

6 WHEREAS, Some common symptoms include upsetting memories,  
7 anger, irritability, emotional numbness and nightmares; and

8 WHEREAS, PTSD significantly increases the risk of depression,  
9 suicide and drug-and-alcohol-related disorders and deaths,  
10 especially if left untreated; and

11 WHEREAS, Families of persons who have PTSD experience more  
12 unhappiness, marital strife, anxiety and childhood and  
13 adolescent behavioral problems than families that do not have to  
14 cope with this disorder; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense and the  
16 Department of Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in  
17 the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms  
18 of PTSD, but many challenges remain; and

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

26 WHEREAS, The National Center for Posttraumatic Stress  
27 Disorder has designated June as "PTSD Awareness Month"; and

28 WHEREAS, In order to bring greater awareness to the issue of  
29 PTSD, the Senate of the United States designated June 27 as  
30 "National PTSD Awareness Day"; and

1       WHEREAS, The designation of "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania will raise public awareness  
3 about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma associated with  
4 PTSD and help ensure that those suffering from this disorder  
5 receive proper treatment; therefore be it

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June  
7 2015 as "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month" in  
8 Pennsylvania and support the efforts of many organizations to  
9 educate the public about the causes, symptoms and treatment of  
10 PTSD.