A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, We must direct our unified efforts to the complex
WHEREAS, These invisible wounds, incurred from experiencing or witnessing traumatic events, were once characterized as a sign of weakness; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June 27, 2020, as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" and
the month of June 2020 as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury
Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request the
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Department of
Health, the Department of Human Services and county Mental
Health and Developmental Services to continue their work on
behalf of individuals and families with trauma histories; and be
it further
RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
the Governor and the Secretary of the Commonwealth.