

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 396 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, VULAKOVICH, SABATINA, DINNIMAN, COSTA,
TEPLITZ, RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF, WHITE, BROWNE, FOLMER,
BARTOLOTTA, FONTANA, FARNESE, BAKER, MENSCH, McILHINNEY,
HUTCHINSON, RESCHENTHALER, KILLION, SCHWANK AND WILEY,
JUNE 22, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 22, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 27, 2016, as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury
2 Awareness Day" and the month of June 2016 as "Post-Traumatic
3 Stress Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The brave men and women of the United States Armed
5 Forces, who proudly serve the United States and risk their lives
6 to protect our freedom, deserve the investment of every possible
7 resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental and emotional
8 well-being; and

9 WHEREAS, The challenges of serving in combat do not stop for
10 many veterans when they return home, but a new challenge begins
11 that many of our servicemen and servicewomen must fight every
12 day that causes them to struggle in silence; and

13 WHEREAS, The diagnosis now known as post-traumatic stress
14 disorder or PTSD was first defined to commonly and more
15 accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe
16 traumatic combat stress; and

17 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress has historically been viewed

1 as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw in the
2 individual's brain or character and the term carries a stigma
3 that perpetuates this misconception; and

4 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress injury occurs after a person
5 has experienced a trauma and can result from not only the stress
6 of combat, but also rape, sexual assault, battery, torture,
7 confinement, child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane
8 crashes, bombings or natural disaster; and

9 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress is a very common injury to the
10 brain that is treatable and repairable; and

11 WHEREAS, Referring to post-traumatic stress injury as a
12 disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental
13 illness and the stigma discourages those suffering from post-
14 traumatic stress from seeking proper and timely medical
15 treatment; and

16 WHEREAS, Making the condition less stigmatizing and more
17 honorable can favorably influence those affected and encourage
18 them to seek help without fear of retribution or shame; and

19 WHEREAS, Proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide
20 rates; and

21 WHEREAS, All citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress
22 injury deserve recognition, while those who have received these
23 wounds in service to our nation further deserve our respect and
24 special honor; therefore it be

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate June 27, 2016, as "Post-
26 Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" and the month of June
27 2016 as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month" in
28 Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate commend the Adjutant General and
30 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for working to

1 educate service members, veterans, the families of service
2 members and veterans, victims of abuse, crime and natural
3 disaster and the general public about the causes, symptoms and
4 treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.