

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 262 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BOYD, BRADFORD, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE,
D. COSTA, DeWEESE, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FARRY,
GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GROVE, HARHART,
HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HESS, HORNAMAN, M. K. KELLER, W. KELLER,
LONGIETTI, MAJOR, METCALFE, MILLARD, MUSTIO, O'NEILL, PAYNE,
READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROSS, SONNEY, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN,
VEREB AND VULAKOVICH, MAY 3, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 3,
2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2011 as "Military Service-Related
2 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month" in
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The month of May has been designated by the Congress
5 of the United States as National Military Appreciation Month to
6 remember those who gave their lives in defense of freedom and to
7 honor the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who
8 have served and are now serving this country; and

9 WHEREAS, Beginning with the ravages of the Civil War, a war-
10 related syndrome has been identified and called various names:
11 in World War I, it was "shell shock"; in World War II, it was
12 "battle fatigue"; and since the Vietnam Conflict in the 1960s
13 and 1970s, the syndrome has been known as post-traumatic stress
14 disorder (PTSD); and

15 WHEREAS, Veterans currently returning from service in

1 Afghanistan and Iraq are experiencing a high incidence of PTSD;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, A study published last year in the *American Journal*
4 *of Public Health* revealed that more than one-third of returning
5 soldiers from Afghanistan and Iraq received a diagnosis of
6 having a mental health disorder, of which nearly 22% were
7 diagnosed with PTSD; and

8 WHEREAS, Caused by the horrors experienced during war, PTSD
9 has an insidious effect on the health of individuals; and

10 WHEREAS, PTSD causes emotional, social, physical, spiritual
11 and communication challenges for both the veterans suffering
12 from the disorder and their loved ones; and

13 WHEREAS, Persons with PTSD have difficulty sleeping and
14 experience all the tangential mental and physical effects of
15 sleep deprivation, feel more irritable and are prone to
16 unexpected or inexplicable outbursts of anger, have difficulty
17 concentrating, expect the worst, feel that danger is lurking and
18 are easily startled; and

19 WHEREAS, Families of persons who have PTSD experience more
20 unhappiness, marital strife, anxiety and childhood and
21 adolescent behavioral problems than families that do not have to
22 cope with this disorder; and

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

30 WHEREAS, It is fitting, during this month in which VE Day,

1 Military Spouse Day, Loyalty Day, Armed Forces Day and Memorial
2 Day are observed, to reflect on this serious disorder that
3 affects many of our veterans and their families, so that we may
4 renew and increase our awareness of PTSD; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
6 month of May 2011 as "Military Service-Related Post-Traumatic
7 Stress Disorder Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.