
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 770 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY BARBIN, SAINATO, READSHAW, DERMODY, GEORGE,
GERBER, MICCARELLI, STABACK, MURT, HORNAMAN, D. COSTA,
MATZIE, GOODMAN, KULA, KORTZ AND DePASQUALE, JUNE 12, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE
12, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating July 7, 2012, as "Combat Related Brain Injury and
2 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day" in
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, More than 2 million United States military personnel
5 have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since the start of
6 military operations in 2001, and military statistics show that
7 at least 234,000 have suffered traumatic brain injuries since
8 the Iraq and Afghanistan wars began; and

9 WHEREAS, Blast-related traumatic brain injury (bTBI) has been
10 labeled the signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
11 and traumatic brain injuries occurring among soldiers deployed
12 to Iraq and Afghanistan are strongly associated with post-
13 traumatic stress disorder and physical health problems after
14 soldiers return home; and

15 WHEREAS, The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC)
16 in Johnstown, has been assisting returning veterans with
17 rehabilitative therapy since 2006 and developing assisted living

1 protocols since 2009; and

2 WHEREAS, The Hiram G. Andrews Center in Johnstown, has been
3 assisting DVBIC by providing rehabilitation and retraining
4 services for combat veterans since 2006; and

5 WHEREAS, The University of Pittsburgh's Department of
6 Neurological Surgery's Brain Trauma Research Center (NSBTRC) has
7 been collaborating with DVBIC and the Pennsylvania Office of
8 Vocational Rehabilitation in holding TBI seminars at the Hirman
9 C. Andrews Center since 2006; and

10 WHEREAS, The University of Pittsburgh's NSBTRC has developed
11 a powerful new imaging technique called High Definition Fiber
12 Tracking that allows doctors to see, for the first time, broken
13 neural connections caused by bTBI; and

14 WHEREAS, In January 2009, Congress mandated DVBIC to
15 establish an assisted living pilot program to determine the best
16 practices to rehabilitate soldiers with mild, moderate or severe
17 traumatic brain injuries to enable them to return to their own
18 communities; and

19 WHEREAS, A March 2012 study by the University of Pennsylvania
20 has confirmed that aggressive treatment of traumatic brain
21 injury has been shown to significantly improve quality of life
22 for the soldier while lowering the long-term cost of treatment;
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate July 7,
25 2012, as "Combat-Related Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress
26 Disorder Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to promote public
27 understanding and encourage all resources, national, State,
28 public and private, to be used to provide comfort and assistance
29 to those who sacrifices for freedom remain invisible.