
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 411 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, SAINATO, BIZZARRO, BROWN, BURNS,
CALTAGIRONE, CIRESI, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO,
FARRY, FREEMAN, GILLEN, HILL-EVANS, KAUFFMAN, KINSEY, KORTZ,
LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MILLARD, NEILSON, OBERLANDER, PICKETT,
POLINCHOCK, READSHAW, RYAN, SAPPEY, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHMITT,
SCHWEYER, SONNEY AND STAATS, JUNE 18, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 18, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 27, 2019, as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury
2 Awareness Day" and the month of June 2019 as "Post-Traumatic
3 Stress Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, We must direct our unified efforts to the complex

1 invisible wounds military personnel carry during wars and
2 postwar periods; and

3 WHEREAS, These invisible wounds, incurred from experiencing
4 or witnessing traumatic events, were once characterized as a
5 sign of weakness; and

6 WHEREAS, Stigma and self-stigma still attach to them; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June
27 27, 2019, as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" and
28 the month of June 2019 as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury
29 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request the

1 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Department of
2 Health, the Department of Human Services and county Mental
3 Health and Developmental Services to continue their work on
4 behalf of individuals and families with trauma histories; and be
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
7 the Governor and the Secretary of the Commonwealth.