

1 SJR27

2 RECOGNIZING POST TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY
3 AWARENESS.

4
5 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess
6 the basic human right to the preservation of personal
7 dignity; and

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

11 WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as Post-Traumatic
12 Stress Disorder (PTSD) was first defined by the American
13 Psychiatric Association in 1980 to more accurately
14 understand and treat veterans who had endured severe
15 operational combat stress; and

16 WHEREAS, combat stress injuries have historically
17 been unjustly portrayed as a mental illness caused by a
18 preexisting flaw of character or ability, and the word
19 "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this
20 misconception which can discourage the injured from seeking
21 proper and timely medical treatment; and

22 WHEREAS, referring to the complications from
23 combat operational stress as a disorder perpetuates the
24 stigma of and bias against mental illness; and

25 WHEREAS, than rather characterize the condition as
26 a disorder, it has been shown through electro-magnetic

1 imaging that the condition is more accurately described as
2 an injury; and

3 WHEREAS, severe post-traumatic stress is a very
4 common, and treatable, injury to the brain which can occur
5 following exposure to extremely traumatic events such as,
6 but not exclusive to: interpersonal violence, combat,
7 life-threatening accidents, or natural disasters; and

8 WHEREAS, referring to the condition as
9 post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) is less stigmatizing and
10 viewed as more honorable, and this designation can favorably
11 influence those affected and encourage them to seek
12 treatment without fear of retribution or shame; and

13 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve
14 our compassion and consideration; those brave men and women
15 of the United States Armed Forces who have received these
16 wounds in action against an enemy of the United States
17 further deserve our special tribute and acknowledgement; and

18 WHEREAS, PTSI is an injury that is repairable and
19 timely treatment can diminish complications and prevent
20 suicides among the injured; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
22 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby designate June
23 27 of each year as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness
24 Day and June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness
25 Month.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we respectfully urge
27 our Department of Public Health and the Department of

1 Veterans Affairs to continue working to educate victims of
2 interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents,
3 or natural disasters and their families, as well as the
4 general public, about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of
5 post-traumatic stress injury.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we direct that a copy
7 of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the De-
8 partment of Public Health, and the Department of Veterans
9 Affairs as an expression of the sentiment of the Alabama
10 Legislature.