

House Resolution 973

By: Representatives Hawkins of the 27th, Newton of the 127th, Stephens of the 164th, Parrish of the 158th, and Jackson of the 128th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 27 as Georgia Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and
2 recognizing June as Georgia Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, all citizens are entitled to the preservation of personal dignity; and

5 WHEREAS, all citizens deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their
6 lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

7 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress is a significant public health issue that can result from a
8 variety of stressors, including combat, interpersonal violence, high-impact collisions, natural
9 disasters, and exposure to the suffering of others; and

10 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress has historically been unjustly portrayed as a mental illness
11 caused by a preexisting flaw of character or ability, and the word "disorder" carries a stigma
12 that perpetuates this misconception; and

13 WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was initially
14 formulated in 1980 by the American Psychiatric Association to describe and categorize the
15 symptoms and behavioral complications of severe traumatic stress; and

16 WHEREAS, the stigma presented by the term PTSD acts as a barrier that interferes with
17 seeking and receiving timely care; and

18 WHEREAS, electromagnetic imaging has shown that severe traumatic stress causes physical
19 changes within the brain, which are more accurately described as an injury than a disorder;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, any injury exhibiting compliance with criteria A through H, §309.81 in the
22 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual deserves consideration and compensation strictly matching
23 legal entitlements provided for disabilities that have been or are currently classified as
24 post-traumatic stress disorder; and

25 WHEREAS, timely access to appropriate treatment of traumatic stress injury can avert
26 complications and prevent suicide; and

27 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSD deserve our compassion and recognition, the
28 brave men and women having received these wounds while risking their lives to protect our
29 freedom, safety, and welfare.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body:

32 (1) Designate June 27 as Georgia Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day;

33 (2) Designate June as Georgia Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month;

34 (3) Respectfully direct that this resolution be transmitted to the Governor for appropriate
35 proclamation and execution; and

36 (4) Encourage all citizens to observe this day and month with appropriate ceremonies
37 and activities that promote public understanding of the challenges faced by individuals
38 with traumatic stress injury, and their families.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
41 public and the press.