

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 169

Designating the month of June 2013 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month”.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 12, 2013

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HELLER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Designating the month of June 2013 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month”.

Whereas the brave men and women Armed Forces of the United States, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the United States, and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 service members have deployed overseas as part of overseas contingency operations since the events of September 11, 2001;

Whereas the military has sustained an operational tempo for a period of time unprecedented in the history of the

United States, with many service members deploying multiple times to combat zones, placing them at high risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this preamble as “PTSD”);

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs reports that—

(1) since October of 2001, more than 286,000 of the approximately 900,000 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn who have used Department of Veterans Affairs health care have been coded for PTSD;

(2) in fiscal year 2011, more than 475,000 of the nearly 6,000,000 veterans from all wars who sought care at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center received treatment for PTSD; and

(3) of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn who are using Veterans Affairs health care, more than 486,000—or 54 percent—have received a diagnosis for at least 1 mental health disorder;

Whereas many cases of PTSD remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about PTSD and the persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions;

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of depression, suicide, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas symptoms of PTSD or other mental health disorders create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the prevention, diag-

nosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain; and

Whereas the establishment of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma associated with PTSD, and help ensure that those suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) designates June 2013, as “National Post-  
3       Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month”;

4               (2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Vet-  
5       erans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to edu-  
6       cate service members, veterans, the families of serv-  
7       ice members and veterans, and the public about the  
8       causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic  
9       stress disorder; and

10              (3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of  
11       the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the  
12       Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of  
13       Defense.

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