

A RESOLUTION designating June 27, 2016, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and designating June 2016 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Month.

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

WHEREAS, more than two million members of the Armed Forces have deployed overseas since the events of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Armed Forces of the United States have sustained a historically high operational tempo since September 11, 2001, with many members of the Armed Forces deploying overseas multiple times, placing those members at high risk of post-traumatic stress injury; and

WHEREAS, men and women of the Armed Forces and veterans who served before September 11, 2001, remain at risk for post-traumatic stress injury and other mental health disorders; and

WHEREAS, for many of our veterans, the challenges of serving in combat do not stop when they return home. Instead, a new challenge begins, a silent battle that many of our service men and women must fight every day; and

WHEREAS, the diagnosis now known as post-traumatic stress disorder was first defined to commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress; and

WHEREAS, combat operational stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by a preexisting flaw in a person's brain or character, and the term "post-traumatic stress disorder" or "PTSD" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress can occur not only after a traumatic event experienced in combat, but also after rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement,

child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable, and

WHEREAS, referring to a post-traumatic stress injury as a disorder perpetuates the stigma against mental illness, which in turn discourages people who suffer from post-traumatic stress injury from seeking proper medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, efforts should continue to make the condition less stigmatizing and more honorable, in order to increase the number of affected people who may seek help and assistance voluntarily; and

WHEREAS, all people who suffer from post-traumatic stress injury deserve recognition, and people who are affected by post-traumatic stress injury from wounds and trauma received while serving the nation further deserve respect and special honor;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives is proud to honor the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States by designating June 27, 2016, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and by designating June 2016 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

➔Section 2. The House of Representatives encourages the Department for Military Affairs, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other state agencies to continue working to educate service members, veterans, the families of service members and veterans, victims of abuse, crime and natural disaster, and the general public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to Governor Matthew Bevin, 700 Capitol Avenue,

Suite 100, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; to the commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, 1111B Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; and to Brigadier General Stephen Hogan, the Adjutant General, 100 Minuteman Parkway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.