

1 SJR82
2 176183-1
3 By Senators Dial, Whatley, Williams, Albritton, Allen,
4 Beasley, Blackwell, Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss,
5 Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Figures, Glover, Hightower, Holley,
6 Holtzclaw, Livingston, Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman,
7 Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Scofield, Shelnuttt, Singleton,
8 Smith, Smitherman, Stutts, Waggoner and Ward
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 07-APR-16

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8 RECOGNIZING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS.

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

15 WHEREAS, the challenges of serving in combat for
16 many of our veterans do not stop when they return home, but a
17 new challenge begins that many of our servicemen and women
18 must fight every day as they struggle in silence; and

19 WHEREAS, the diagnosis now known as Post-Traumatic
20 Stress Disorder (PTSD) was first defined to commonly and more
21 accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured
22 severe traumatic combat stress; and

23 WHEREAS, combat operational stress has historically
24 been viewed as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw
25 of character and/or ability, and the term "Post-Traumatic
26 Stress Disorder (PTSD)" carries a stigma that perpetuates this
27 misconception; and

1 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress can occur not only
2 after a traumatic event experienced in combat, but also rape,
3 sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse,
4 car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, and/or
5 natural disaster; and

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

8 WHEREAS, referring to the complications from
9 post-traumatic stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of
10 and bias against mental illness, and the stigma discourages
11 those suffering from post-traumatic stress from seeking proper
12 and timely medical treatment; and

13 WHEREAS, making the condition less stigmatizing and
14 more honorable can favorably influence those affected and
15 encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution or
16 shame; and

17 WHEREAS, proper and timely treatment can diminish
18 suicide rates; and

19 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from post-traumatic
20 stress injury deserve our consideration, those who have
21 received these wounds in service to our nation further deserve
22 our respect and recognition; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That June 27, 2016, is recognized
25 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in Alabama and
26 June 2016 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month; we
27 respectfully urge the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs,

1 the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Adjutant
2 General of the Alabama National Guard to continue working to
3 educate service members, veterans, the families of service
4 members and veterans, victims of abuse, crime and natural
5 disaster, and the general public about the causes, symptoms,
6 and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury and respectfully
7 request the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House
8 to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor.