

1 SJR143  
2 189841-2  
3 By Senator Dial  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 27-MAR-18

1 SJR143

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4 ENROLLED, SJR143,

5 RECOGNIZING POST TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS.

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

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

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

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

1           WHEREAS, referring to the complications from combat  
2 operational stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and  
3 bias against mental illness; and

4           WHEREAS, than rather characterize the condition as a  
5 disorder, it has been shown through electro-magnetic imaging  
6 that the condition is more accurately described as an injury;  
7 and

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

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

18           WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve  
19 our compassion and consideration; those brave men and women of  
20 the United States Armed Forces who have received these wounds  
21 in action against an enemy of the United States further  
22 deserve our special tribute and acknowledgement; and

23           WHEREAS, PTSI is an injury that is repairable and  
24 timely treatment can diminish complications and prevent  
25 suicides among the injured; now therefore,

1           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby designate June 27  
3 of each year as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and  
4 June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

5           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we respectfully urge  
6 our Department of Public Health and the Department of Veterans  
7 Affairs to continue working to educate victims of  
8 interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, or  
9 natural disasters and their families, as well as the general  
10 public, about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of  
11 post-traumatic stress injury.

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we direct that a copy  
13 of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
14 Department of Public Health, and the Department of Veterans  
15 Affairs as an expression of the sentiment of the Alabama  
16 Legislature.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR143  
Senate 27-MAR-18  
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 28-MAR-18

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