

HOUSE RESOLUTION 176

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION to recognize "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day."

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

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

WHEREAS, the diagnosis now known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) 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 of character or ability, and the term "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder" 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 a rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse, car accident, train wreck, plane crash, bombing, or natural disaster; and

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join with Honor for All as the organization recognizes June 27, 2016, as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" in order to bring attention to the general public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.