

By Senator Torres

15-01606-20

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing June 27, 2020, and each June  
3 27 thereafter, as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury  
4 Awareness Day" and each June as "Posttraumatic Stress  
5 Injury Awareness Month" in Florida.  
6

7 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess the  
8 basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity and  
9 deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure  
10 their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being, and

11 WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as posttraumatic stress  
12 disorder (PTSD) was initially formulated in 1980 by the American  
13 Psychiatric Association to more accurately assess and assist  
14 veterans who had endured severe combat stress in Vietnam, and

15 WHEREAS, combat stress is an invisible wound that has  
16 historically been unjustly portrayed as a mental illness caused  
17 by a preexisting flaw of character or ability, and the term  
18 "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception,  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, it has been shown through electromagnetic imaging  
21 that these invisible wounds can cause physical changes to the  
22 brain which more accurately describe an injury than a disorder,  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, referring to invisible wounds as a disorder can  
25 discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical  
26 treatment, and

27 WHEREAS, posttraumatic stress injury can occur following  
28 exposure to extremely traumatic events other than combat, such  
29 as, but not exclusive to, interpersonal violence, life-

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30 threatening accidents, and natural disasters, and

31 WHEREAS, persons with a posttraumatic stress injury that  
32 satisfies criteria A through H of the diagnosis for PTSD in the  
33 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth  
34 Edition, deserve disability compensation equal to that allowed  
35 for PTSD under the law, and

36 WHEREAS, while all Americans who have suffered  
37 posttraumatic stress injuries are deserving of our compassion  
38 and consideration, those brave men and women of the United  
39 States Armed Forces who have suffered these wounds in  
40 operational action against an enemy of the United States also  
41 deserve clear and prominent recognition, and

42 WHEREAS, timely and appropriate treatment of posttraumatic  
43 stress injury can diminish complications and avert suicides,  
44 NOW, THEREFORE,

45  
46 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

47  
48 That June 27, 2020, and each June 27 thereafter, is  
49 recognized as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day," and  
50 each June is recognized as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury  
51 Awareness Month" in Florida.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments of Health,  
53 Military Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs are encouraged to  
54 continue their efforts to educate those who have experienced  
55 interpersonal violence, life-threatening accidents, and natural  
56 disasters and their families, as well as the general public,  
57 about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of posttraumatic  
58 stress injury.