HLS 19RS-134 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates June 2019 as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and June 27, 2019, as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in Louisiana

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To recognize June 2019 as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and to recognize
3	Thursday, June 27, 2019, as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in
4	Louisiana.
5	WHEREAS, all people have a right to the preservation of their personal dignity; and
6	WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States deserve the investment of resources to
7	ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and
8	WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as post-traumatic stress disorder was first defined
9	by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 in order to more accurately understand and
10	treat veterans who had endured severe, traumatic combat stress; and
11	WHEREAS, combat stress has historically been viewed incorrectly as a mental
12	illness caused by a pre-existing flaw of character or ability, and the word disorder carries a
13	stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and
14	WHEREAS, referring to the complications from post-traumatic stress as a disorder
15	perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the
16	injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and
17	WHEREAS, through the use of electro-magnetic imaging, the medical field has
18	demonstrated that the condition of post-traumatic stress is more accurately described as an
19	injury; and
20	WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) is a common injury to the brain that
21	is treatable and repairable; and

1	WHEREAS, PTSI can occur as a result of severely traumatic events including,
2	without limitation, interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, and natural
3	disasters; and
4	WHEREAS, destigmatizing PTSI and honoring the bravery of persons recovering
5	from this injury can favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek help
6	without fear of retribution or shame; and
7	WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve our compassion and
8	consideration, and those who have received their wounds in action against an enemy of the
9	United States further deserve our tribute and recognition; and
10	WHEREAS, proper and timely treatment can improve health outcomes and diminish
11	rates of suicide among people with PTSI.
12	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13	recognize the month of June 2019 as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and
14	does hereby recognize Thursday, June 27, 2019, as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness
15	Day in Louisiana.
16	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge the Louisiana
17	Department of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase efforts to educate
18	survivors of interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, and natural disasters;
19	veterans and their families; and the general public about the causes, symptoms, and
20	treatments of post-traumatic stress injury.
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted
22	to the governor of Louisiana and the secretary of state.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 17 Original

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