

By: Gutierrez

H.R. No. 2647

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The brave men and women of our nation's armed forces  
2 regularly risk their lives in defense of our freedoms, and as a  
3 result, many suffer from the serious effects of post-traumatic  
4 stress; and

5           WHEREAS, In 1980, the American Psychiatric Association  
6 crafted the term "post-traumatic stress disorder" to diagnose the  
7 effects of traumatic stress suffered by combat veterans, first  
8 responders, and victims of crime, abuse, or natural disasters; and

9           WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the term PTSD may carry a negative  
10 connotation for some, discouraging them from seeking treatment due  
11 to the perception that the word "disorder" indicates weakness or  
12 mental illness in the individual who suffers from post-traumatic  
13 stress; and

14           WHEREAS, Research utilizing electromagnetic imaging has  
15 demonstrated that combat and other traumatic stress can cause  
16 actual physical changes in the brain, leading to psychological  
17 symptoms and changes in behavior; as a result, a movement has arisen  
18 that hopes to change the official diagnosis, in certain cases, from  
19 PTSD to "post-traumatic stress injury," or PTSI; and

20           WHEREAS, A leader in these advocacy efforts is the veterans  
21 organization Honor for All, which is dedicated to eliminating the  
22 stigma attached to post-traumatic stress, to preserving the dignity  
23 of the injured, and to helping them avert impulsive or dangerous  
24 behavior which might lead to suicide; and

1           WHEREAS, Under the motto "Visible Honor for Invisible  
2 Wounds," the organization is engaged in a national effort to  
3 introduce the term "injury" into the vernacular when discussing  
4 post-traumatic stress that arises as a result of changes in the  
5 brain; this simple change can help encourage individuals to seek  
6 timely treatment without fear of retribution or shame; and

7           WHEREAS, The nation's military veterans who have suffered the  
8 hidden wounds of post-traumatic stress injury while serving our  
9 nation are truly entitled to every possible resource to ensure  
10 their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; now,  
11 therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, That June 27, 2017, be recognized as Post-Traumatic  
13 Stress Injury Awareness Day and that the month of June be recognized  
14 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month in the State of  
15 Texas.