

By: Landgraf

H.C.R. No. 148

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The veterans of the armed forces of the United
2 States experience post-traumatic stress disorder and commit
3 suicide at rates far higher than the general population; and

4 WHEREAS, The men and women who bear arms in our defense
5 regularly face traumatic situations that are not necessarily unique
6 to military life but are certainly more prevalent, ranging from
7 violent and life-threatening experiences to sexual harassment and
8 assault; and

9 WHEREAS, Between 7 and 8 percent of the general population
10 experience PTSD at some point in their lives, but veterans are
11 afflicted at rates that range from 12 percent for those who took
12 part in the Gulf War to between 11 and 20 percent for veterans of
13 Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom; approximately 15
14 percent of Vietnam veterans are currently diagnosed with PTSD, and
15 nearly a third of them have experienced the condition over the
16 course of their lifetimes; and

17 WHEREAS, The aftermath of trauma can manifest itself as
18 depression, outbursts of anger, and substance abuse, but the most
19 tragic consequence is suicide; from 2008 to 2016, more than 6,000
20 veterans each year took their own lives; moreover, in 2016, the
21 suicide rate for veterans was 26.1 per 100,000 as opposed to 17.4
22 for non-veteran adults, when adjusted for age and gender; and

23 WHEREAS, Suicide and other consequences of PTSD affect not
24 only the veterans themselves, but also their families, friends, and

1 communities; in an effort to address this urgent problem, the U.S.
2 Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the
3 Department of Homeland Security, the National Action Alliance for
4 Suicide Prevention, and many veterans and private sector
5 organizations are working to expand treatment and prevention
6 services; these initiatives can be furthered by increasing public
7 awareness of the issue and by engaging the active support of a broad
8 spectrum of concerned citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, Americans owe those men and women who sacrificed so
10 much on our behalf an eternal debt of gratitude, and it is essential
11 that our veterans receive the assistance they need to enhance their
12 well-being and their ability to live long and fulfilling lives;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby designate June as Veteran Suicide and PTSD Awareness Month;
16 and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
18 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
19 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
20 passed by the legislature.