

1-1 By: Landgraf (Senate Sponsor - Campbell) H.C.R. No. 148
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2019;
1-3 May 7, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran
1-4 Affairs & Border Security; May 17, 2019, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 17, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Campbell	X		
1-9	Hall	X		
1-10	Johnson	X		
1-11	Lucio		X	
1-12	Menéndez	X		
1-13	Schwertner	X		
1-14	Seliger	X		

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, The veterans of the armed forces of the United
1-17 States experience post-traumatic stress disorder and commit
1-18 suicide at rates far higher than the general population; and

1-19 WHEREAS, The men and women who bear arms in our defense
1-20 regularly face traumatic situations that are not necessarily unique
1-21 to military life but are certainly more prevalent, ranging from
1-22 violent and life-threatening experiences to sexual harassment and
1-23 assault; and

1-24 WHEREAS, Between 7 and 8 percent of the general population
1-25 experience PTSD at some point in their lives, but veterans are
1-26 afflicted at rates that range from 12 percent for those who took
1-27 part in the Gulf War to between 11 and 20 percent for veterans of
1-28 Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom; approximately 15
1-29 percent of Vietnam veterans are currently diagnosed with PTSD, and
1-30 nearly a third of them have experienced the condition over the
1-31 course of their lifetimes; and

1-32 WHEREAS, The aftermath of trauma can manifest itself as
1-33 depression, outbursts of anger, and substance abuse, but the most
1-34 tragic consequence is suicide; from 2008 to 2016, more than 6,000
1-35 veterans each year took their own lives; moreover, in 2016, the
1-36 suicide rate for veterans was 26.1 per 100,000 as opposed to 17.4
1-37 for non-veteran adults, when adjusted for age and gender; and

1-38 WHEREAS, Suicide and other consequences of PTSD affect not
1-39 only the veterans themselves, but also their families, friends, and
1-40 communities; in an effort to address this urgent problem, the U.S.
1-41 Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the
1-42 Department of Homeland Security, the National Action Alliance for
1-43 Suicide Prevention, and many veterans and private sector
1-44 organizations are working to expand treatment and prevention
1-45 services; these initiatives can be furthered by increasing public
1-46 awareness of the issue and by engaging the active support of a broad
1-47 spectrum of concerned citizens; and

1-48 WHEREAS, Americans owe those men and women who sacrificed so
1-49 much on our behalf an eternal debt of gratitude, and it is essential
1-50 that our veterans receive the assistance they need to enhance their
1-51 well-being and their ability to live long and fulfilling lives;
1-52 now, therefore, be it

1-53 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-54 hereby designate June as Veteran Suicide and PTSD Awareness Month;
1-55 and, be it further

1-56 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
1-57 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
1-58 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
1-59 passed by the legislature.

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