

By: Jetton

H.R. No. 465

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Americans owe a profound debt of gratitude to the
2 brave men and women who have served in our nation's military, and
3 the mental health of those veterans should be a paramount concern to
4 every Texan; and

5 WHEREAS, There are 18 million military veterans across the
6 nation, and approximately 1.7 million of them have been found to
7 have a mental health condition, including depression, anxiety, and
8 substance abuse disorders, as well as such serious mental illnesses
9 as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder; more than 1.4 million
10 veterans live in the Lone Star State, with certain counties
11 possessing some of the highest concentrations of veterans in the
12 nation; in our state alone, the number of veterans who died by
13 suicide increased from 496 in 2017 to 511 in 2018; and

14 WHEREAS, Structural barriers inhibit veterans' access to
15 critical mental health services, and these are further complicated
16 by such factors as their military identity, the stigma surrounding
17 mental illness, and the culture gap between military and civilian
18 life; the result is that veterans are significantly less likely to
19 receive mental health care than the civilian population, with more
20 than 50 percent of returning veterans failing to receive any mental
21 health care at all; and

22 WHEREAS, Raising awareness of the need to provide veterans
23 with better access to mental health care is a necessary first step
24 in addressing this pressing issue; as they work to heal the scars of

1 war and negotiate the difficult transition to civilian life, our
2 veterans deserve the support of their fellow citizens so that they
3 may pursue rich and purposeful lives; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
5 Legislature hereby recognize May 19, 2021, as Veteran Mental Health
6 Awareness Day in the state of Texas.