

House Resolution 1669

By: Representatives Yates of the 73rd, Deffenbaugh of the 1st, Glanton of the 75th, Hitchens of the 161st, Prince of the 127th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 27, 2016, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and June, 2016,
2 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and encouraging the Department of Public
3 Health and Adjutant General to continue working to educate citizens about post-traumatic
4 stress injury; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, proudly serving the United States and risking their lives to protect our freedom,
6 the brave men and women of the United States armed forces deserve the investment of every
7 possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

8 WHEREAS, the challenges of serving in combat, for many of our veterans, do not stop when
9 they return home; rather, a new challenge begins that many of our servicemen and women
10 must fight every day and that they struggle with in silence; and

11 WHEREAS, the diagnosis, now known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, was first defined
12 to commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe
13 traumatic combat stress; and

14 WHEREAS, combat operational stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness
15 caused by a preexisting flaw of character or ability, and the term "Post-Traumatic Stress
16 Disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

17 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress can occur not only after a traumatic event experienced in
18 combat, but also as a result of rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse,
19 car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, and natural disasters; and

20 WHEREAS, referring to the complications from post-traumatic stress as a disorder
21 perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and the stigma discourages those
22 suffering from post-traumatic stress from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

23 WHEREAS, making the condition less stigmatized and more honorable can favorably
24 influence those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution or
25 shame; and

26 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve our
27 consideration, and those who have received these wounds in service to our nation further
28 deserve our respect and recognition.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body recognize June 27, 2016, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury
31 Awareness Day and June, 2016, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and
32 encourage the Department of Public Health and Adjutant General to continue working to
33 educate citizens about post-traumatic stress injury.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
36 public and the press.