

House Resolution 550

By: Representatives Hitchens of the 161st, Bonner of the 72nd, Tarvin of the 2nd, Rogers of the 10th, Corbett of the 174th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 27, 2017, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and June, 2017,
2 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and encouraging the Departments of
3 Public Health, Military, and Veterans Affairs to continue working to educate citizens about
4 post-traumatic stress injury; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States deserve the investment of every possible
6 resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

7 WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, who proudly
8 serve the United States, risk their lives to protect our freedom; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury can occur after experiencing a severely traumatic
16 event to include, but not be exclusive to sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact collisions
17 and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat; and

18 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable
19 and repairable; 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, proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide rates; and

27 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve our compassion
28 and consideration, and those who have received these wounds in action against an enemy of
29 the United States further deserve our tribute and acknowledgment.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body recognize June 27, 2017, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury
32 Awareness Day and June, 2017, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and
33 encourage the Departments of Public Health, Military, and Veterans Affairs to continue
34 working to educate citizens about post-traumatic stress injury.

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