

## 2015-K1493

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 27, 2016, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who proudly serve the United States and risk their lives to protect our freedom deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, All citizens possess the basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity; and

WHEREAS, The diagnosis now known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was first defined to commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress; and

WHEREAS, Combat operational stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw of character and/or ability; the term Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress can occur after experiencing a severely traumatic event to include sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat; and

WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable; and

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

WHEREAS, Making the condition less stigmatizing and more honorable can favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek help with-

out fear of retribution or shame; and

WHEREAS, Proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide rates; and

WHEREAS, All citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury

deserve our compassion and consideration, those who have received these

wounds in action against an enemy of the United States further deserve

our tribute and acknowledgement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim, Monday June 27, 2016

as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in the State of New York;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause further to respectfully

urge the Department of Health, the Department of Mental Health, the

Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the Division of Veterans'

Affairs to continue to work to educate the victims of abuse, crime and

natural disasters, service members, veterans and their families, the

general public, about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-trau-

matic stress injury; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

smitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New

York, and Colonel Eric J. Hesse, (Retired), Director of the New York

State Division of Veterans' Affairs.