
State of Iowa
Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces proudly serve the United States and risk their lives to protect our freedom and they deserve our caring and attention to their physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 2,500,000 United States' service members have deployed as part of overseas contingency operations since the events of September 11, 2001; many of our veterans return home with new challenges to fight and struggle with in their own silence; and
- WHEREAS,** hundreds of thousands of our service members have been clinically diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – a condition affecting an estimated 7.7 million Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** Post-Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI) occurs after a person has experienced a trauma; and can result from the stress of combat, as well as rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, or natural disaster and is characterized by numerous symptoms; including flashbacks, avoidance, hyper vigilance, nightmares, re-experiencing, anxiety, cognitive deficits, irritability, insomnia, fatigue, and thoughts of suicide; and
- WHEREAS,** while post-traumatic stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw in the individual's brain or character; it has been learned that post-traumatic stress is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable; and
- WHEREAS,** efforts should continue to make the condition less stigmatizing and more honorable in order to increase the number of those affected to voluntarily seek help and assistance; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Defense, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and the National Institute of Mental Health have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSI and the symptoms of PTSI; all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve recognition, and those who have received these wounds while serving to defend our freedom deserve our respect and special honor:

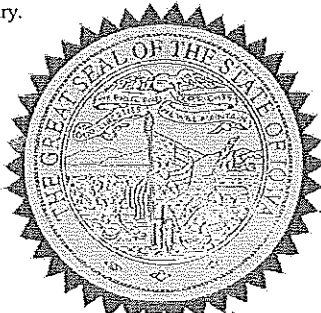
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim June 27, 2016 as

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS DAY

and the month of June 2016 as


POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

and encourage continued efforts to educate our service members, veterans, and families, as well as victims of abuse, crime and natural disaster, and the general public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 31st DAY OF MARCH IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN.


TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

PAUL D. PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE