

House Concurrent Resolution No. 34

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MORRIS.

1900H.011

1 **WHEREAS**, all citizens of the United States possess the basic human right to the
2 preservation of personal dignity; and

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

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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

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10 **WHEREAS**, the diagnosis now known as Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was
11 first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to uniformly and more accurately
12 understand and treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, combat stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by
15 a pre-existing flaw of character or ability, and the word "disorder" carries a stigma that
16 perpetuates this misconception; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, posttraumatic stress injury (PTSI) can occur after experiencing a severely
19 traumatic event to include, but not be exclusive to, sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact
20 collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, PTSI is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, referring to the complications from posttraumatic stress as a disorder
25 perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the
26 injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, making PTSI less stigmatizing and more honorable can favorably influence
29 those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution or shame; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide rates; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, all citizens suffering from posttraumatic stress injury deserve our
34 compassion and consideration; those who have received these wounds in action against an enemy
35 of the United States further deserve our tribute and acknowledgment:

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37 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
38 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
39 concurring therein, hereby designate June 27 of each year as “Posttraumatic Stress Injury
40 Awareness Day” in Missouri; and

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42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly respectfully urges the
43 citizens of the state to educate themselves on posttraumatic stress injury, its causes, symptoms,
44 and treatment.

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