

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 107

Introduced by Assembly Members Eng and Cook

(Principal coauthor: Senator Correa)

(Coauthor: Assembly Member Pan)

(Coauthor: Senator Cannella)

February 13, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 107—Relative to PTSD Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 107, as introduced, Eng. PTSD Awareness Day.

This measure would recognize June 27, 2012, as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Throughout our nation’s history, the men and
2 women of the United States Armed Forces have preserved our
3 freedom, protected our security, and upheld our democratic values;
4 from the battles of the American Revolution through the crucible
5 of two world wars to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan today, our
6 men and women in uniform have stood proudly in defense of the
7 United States and the cause of liberty; and
8 WHEREAS, The brave men and women of the United States
9 Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives
10 to protect the freedom of the United States and deserve the
11 investment of every reasonable resource to ensure their lasting
12 physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

1 WHEREAS, The incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder
2 (PTSD) in members of the military is rising as the United States
3 Armed Forces conducts two wars, exposing hundreds of thousands
4 of soldiers to traumatic life-threatening events; and

5 WHEREAS, The federal Department of Veterans Affairs
6 estimates that as many as 95 percent of veterans returning from
7 combat in Iraq and Afghanistan have some form of PTSD; and

8 WHEREAS, Symptoms include nightmares, feeling numb,
9 having difficulty experiencing love or closeness with others, feeling
10 jittery or overly alert, having difficulty sleeping, experiencing
11 anger or irritability, having difficulty concentrating, substance
12 problems, and having feelings of despair or hopelessness; and

13 WHEREAS, Although the Department of Defense and the
14 Department of Veterans Affairs have made significant advances
15 in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the
16 symptoms of PTSD, many challenges remain; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute for Mental
18 Health, PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can develop after exposure
19 to a terrifying event or ordeal in which grave physical harm
20 occurred or was threatened; and

21 WHEREAS, The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary
22 of Defense should continue to work to educate service members,
23 veterans, the families of service members and veterans, and the
24 public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of PTSD; and

25 WHEREAS, It is important to all citizens of the State of
26 California, that those who served our country in the military are
27 aware of the symptoms of PTSD and are able to seek help; now,
28 therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature pause in its deliberations
31 to memorialize Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., and to proclaim
32 June 27, 2012, as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day
33 in the state, fully confident that such procedure mirrors our shared
34 commitment to preserve, to ensure, and to yet effect that patrimony
35 of freedom which is our American Heritage; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
37 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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