

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The servicemen and women of Arkansas and 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: Post-Traumatic Stress Injury occurs after a person has experienced a trauma; and can result from not only the stress of combat, but also rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings or natural disaster; and

WHEREAS: Post-Traumatic Stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw in the individual's brain or character; and the term "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

WHEREAS: Referring to Post-Traumatic Stress Injury 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 the help without 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 recognition, while those who have received these wounds in service to our nation further deserve our respect and special honor;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim June 27, 2016, as

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS DAY

and the month of June as

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

across the State of Arkansas, and I encourage our Veterans Affairs Agency, the Department of Public Health and The Adjutant General to continue working to educate service members, veterans, the families of service members and veterans, 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 set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 18th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2016.



Mark Martin
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State

Asa Hutchinson
Asa Hutchinson, Governor