

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

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

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

WHEREAS: Referring to the complications from post-traumatic stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

WHEREAS: Making post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) less stigmatizing and more honorable can favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek timely treatment help without fear of retribution or shame and diminish suicide rates; and

WHEREAS: All citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) should retain the right to their dignity and deserve our consideration. Those who have received their wounds in action against an enemy of the United States further deserve our tribute and acknowledgement;

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 2017, as

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

and June 27th, 2017 as

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS DAY

across the State, and I encourage all citizens to recognize this observance.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 31st day of May, in the year of our Lord 2017.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State