

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: Severe post-traumatic stress injury is a disabling wound to the brain which can occur following exposure to extremely traumatic events such as, but not exclusive to: interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, or natural disasters; and

WHEREAS: Post-traumatic 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: Referring to post-traumatic stress injury as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and the stigma can discourage those suffering with 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 as well as diminish suicide rates; and

WHEREAS: All citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve recognition, and 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 27th, 2019, as

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS DAY

and June 2019, as

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

across the State, 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 29th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2019.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest


John Thurston, Secretary Of State