

Senators Pappageorge, Pavlov, Proos, Colbeck, Caswell, Nofs, Moolenaar, Green, Kahn, Schuitmaker, Meekhof, Jansen, Casperson, Emmons, Hansen, Booher, Robertson, Hune, Kowall, Brandenburg, Marleau, Richardville, Rocca, Hildenbrand, Jones and Whitmer offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 144.

A resolution designating June 27, 2014, as Michigan Post Traumatic Stress Injury Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The brave men and women of the United States armed forces, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the United States and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

Whereas, More than 2 million United States service members have deployed as part of overseas contingency operations since the events of September 11, 2001; and

Whereas, The military has sustained an operational tempo for a period of time unprecedented in the history of the United States, with many service members deploying multiple times to combat zones, placing them at high risk of post traumatic stress injury (PTSI); and

Whereas, It is expected that 10,000 veterans will return to the state of Michigan every year for the next three to five years after spending a significant amount of time in combat environments, exposing thousands of soldiers to traumatic life-threatening events; and

Whereas, The Department of Veterans Affairs reports that in fiscal year 2012, more than 500,000 veterans from all wars who sought care at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center received treatment for PTSI; and

Whereas, PTSI significantly increases the risk of depression, suicide, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths; and

Whereas, Although the United States Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSI and the symptoms of PTSI, many challenges remain; and

Whereas, The establishment of a Michigan Post Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSI; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That members of this legislative body designate June 27, 2014, as Michigan Post Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and the Adjutant General to continue working to educate service members, veterans, the families of service members and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post traumatic stress injury; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the state of Michigan, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, and the Adjutant General.