



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: The brave men and women of our nation's Armed Forces proudly serve the United States and risk their lives to protect our freedoms. As such, their physical, mental, and emotional well-being deserves our care and attention; and
- WHEREAS: Since the events of September 11, 2001, more than 2,500,000 United States service members have deployed as part of overseas contingency operations. Many of these individuals returned home only to struggle with new challenges, sometimes alone and in silence; and
- WHEREAS: Hundreds of thousands of our servicemen and women have been clinically diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI) – a condition affecting an estimated 7.7 million Americans. Post-traumatic stress injury occurs after a person has experienced a trauma and can result from many events, including the stress of combat, rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, plane crashes, bombings, and more. PTSI is typically characterized by numerous symptoms such as flashbacks, avoidance, hyper vigilance, nightmares, re-experiencing, anxiety, cognitive deficits, irritability, insomnia, fatigue, and thoughts of suicide; and
- WHEREAS: While post-traumatic stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw in the individual's brain or character, it has been learned that post-traumatic stress is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable; and
- WHEREAS: Efforts should continue to make PTSI less stigmatizing in order to increase the number of those affected who voluntarily seek help and assistance; and
- WHEREAS: The Department of Defense, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and the National Institute of Mental Health have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSI and its symptoms. All citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve recognition, and those who have received these wounds while serving our nation have earned our utmost respect and special acknowledgement; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim June as POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF