



PRESS RELEASE
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Veterans Affairs hosts open house to recognize PTSI Awareness Day

Information and assistance for post-traumatic stress injuries will be available

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — The Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Office of Veterans Affairs will host an open house recognizing Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day, Monday, June 27. The event will be from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the State Office of Veterans Affairs, 4600 Debarr Road, Suite 180 in Anchorage.

During the second regular session of the 29th Alaska State Legislature, lawmakers passed House Joint Resolution 30, designating June 27, 2016 as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day." The measure promotes use of the term "post-traumatic stress injury" or "PTSI" instead of "post-traumatic stress disorder" or "PTSD".

Of the nearly 74,000 veterans in Alaska, approximately 58,000 have served in a combat zone. As many as 30 percent of these veterans are likely affected by post-traumatic stress injuries. Veterans are not the only ones affected. Family members suffer along with their loved ones once they return home.

"Post-traumatic stress injuries are silent, invisible bullets," said Verdie Bowen, director of the State Office of Veterans Affairs. "They do not distinguish between age, race, or gender, and their effects often go undiagnosed. This resolution will help us reach our veterans and their families who suffer from these injuries."

Service members, veterans, and families will be able to receive information and assistance during the open house.

For more information, contact Verdie Bowen or Jeff Slaikeu at (907) 334-0874.

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