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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 933 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, GOODMAN, WHEATLEY, ENGLISH, MAHER,  
BARRAR, KRIEGER, PAYNE, HARPER, CLYMER, ELLIS, LUCAS, THOMAS,  
CALTAGIRONE, KOTIK, MCGEEHAN, HARHART, D. MILLER, KIRKLAND,  
RAPP, COX, BROWNLEE, BROOKS, VEREB, BENNINGHOFF, McNEILL,  
COHEN, HENNESSEY, MICOZZIE, AUMENT, REED, DAVIS, MIRABITO,  
P. DALEY, CAUSER, MILLARD, NEILSON, FARINA, O'NEILL, MAHONEY,  
LONGIETTI, SONNEY, DIGIROLAMO, KAVULICH, TOEPEL, DONATUCCI,  
YOUNGBLOOD, TALLMAN, ROSS, PICKETT, O'BRIEN, MAJOR, FLECK,  
C. HARRIS, RAVENSTAHL AND MARSICO, JUNE 28, 2014

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 28, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas A. Richards,  
2 United States Marine Corps Retired, and extending condolences  
3 upon his passing.

4 WHEREAS, In the 1980s, as a young captain in the United  
5 States Marine Corps, Thomas A. Richards was the commanding  
6 officer of all Marine Corps recruiters in Western Pennsylvania;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, His territory extended from Erie in the north to  
9 Greene County in the south, and stretched as far east as State  
10 College; and

11 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards became a life long admirer of this  
12 Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards was an avid hiker and camper in  
14 many of this Commonwealth's State parks and forests; and

1       WHEREAS, Throughout Lt. Col. Richards' life, he remained an  
2 ardent military history student and made frequent visits to  
3 Gettysburg National Military Park and the Carlisle Military  
4 History Museum; and

5       WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards was raised in Madison, Wisconsin  
6 and was a star runner on both the cross-country and track teams;  
7 and

8       WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards maintained a rigorous physical  
9 fitness regimen throughout his life, including climbing  
10 California's 14,497 Mt. Whitney 10 times in 11 years; and

11       WHEREAS, After graduation from high school, Lt. Col. Richards  
12 joined the United States Marine Corps in 1967; and

13       WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards attended scout sniper school before  
14 being assigned to H Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines in the  
15 Republic of Vietnam for four tours of duty; and

16       WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards was awarded the Marine Corps'  
17 highest medal for valor, the Navy Cross, for combat actions on  
18 June 5 through 6, 1969; and

19       WHEREAS, During Lt. Col. Richards' service to his country, in  
20 addition to the Navy Cross, he was awarded the Purple Heart,  
21 Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (two awards),  
22 the Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon and the  
23 Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal; and

24       WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards earned both a baccalaureate degree  
25 and a masters degree in history and a masters degree of business  
26 administration from San Diego State University; and

27       WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards was an adjunct professor of  
28 history at Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach,  
29 Virginia; and

30       WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards also served as the National

1 Commander of the Legion of Valor; and

2 WHEREAS, Membership in the Legion of Valor is limited to  
3 American military personnel who have received the Medal of Honor  
4 or the Navy, Air Force or Distinguished Service Cross; and

5 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards was appointed to the California  
6 Veterans Board by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; and

7 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards spearheaded nationwide efforts to  
8 discover incidents of stolen valor and prepared an amicus brief  
9 for submission to the United States Supreme Court in support of  
10 finding that the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 was constitutional;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards passed away on June 18, 2014; and

13 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards is survived by his wife, Diane  
14 Hall Richards and his fellow Marines; and

15 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Richards will be laid to rest at Arlington  
16 National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life of  
18 Lieutenant Colonel Thomas A. Richards, United States Marine  
19 Corps Retired, and extend condolences upon his passing; and be  
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
22 the family of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas A. Richards, as a token  
23 of appreciation.