

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 986 Session of  
2014

---

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, GOODMAN, MICOZZIE, WHEATLEY, PAYNE,  
CLYMER, DIGIROLAMO, COHEN, PASHINSKI, McNEILL, AUMENT,  
KINSEY, JAMES, CALTAGIRONE, LONGIETTI, HARHART, KIRKLAND,  
K. BOYLE, MIRABITO, HENNESSEY, MILLARD, ELLIS, THOMAS, LUCAS,  
McGEEHAN, RAPP, VEREB, MENTZER, BAKER, BOBACK, DAVIS, SONNEY,  
McCARTER, BROWNLEE, DEASY, SABATINA, BENNINGHOFF, FARINA,  
ROCK, MURT, SWANGER, P. DALEY, DeLUCA, YOUNGBLOOD, MARSICO,  
D. COSTA, FLECK, MAHONEY AND MAJOR, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and recognizing the significance and history of the  
2 United States flag-folding ceremony.

3 WHEREAS, The flag-folding ceremony is an expressive and  
4 exhilarating way to honor the United States flag on special  
5 days, such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and on special  
6 occasions, such as retirement ceremonies and funerals; and

7 WHEREAS, There are no specific records on when the flag-  
8 folding ceremony began, but it does appear that the first flag-  
9 folding ceremony is attributed to Charles Thomson, Secretary of  
10 Congress, in 1782; and

11 WHEREAS, There are a minimum of six different verses  
12 associated with the flag-folding ceremony; and

13 WHEREAS, The flag-folding ceremony represents the same  
14 religious principles on which our country was originally

1 founded; and

2 WHEREAS, The flag-folding ceremony is performed in the  
3 following manner, described by the Uniformed Services Code:

4 The assembled individuals will wait for the Honor Guard or  
5 Flag Detail to unravel and fold the flag into a quarter-fold  
6 while reading the following when the Honor Guard is standing  
7 ready:

8 The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

9 The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal  
10 life.

11 The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the  
12 veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the  
13 defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

14 The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American  
15 citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace  
16 as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

17 The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words  
18 of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other  
19 countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country,  
20 right or wrong."

21 The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our  
22 heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States  
23 of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation,  
24 under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

25 The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is  
26 through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our  
27 flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or  
28 without the boundaries of our republic.

29 The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the  
30 valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of

1 day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

2 The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood, for it has been  
3 through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the  
4 character of the men and women who have made this country great  
5 have been molded.

6 The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he too has given  
7 his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they  
8 were first born.

9 The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen,  
10 represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King  
11 Solomon and glorifies the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

12 The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen,  
13 represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies God the Father,  
14 the Son and the Holy Ghost.

15 When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost,  
16 reminding us of our national motto, "In God we Trust."

17 The assembled group will wait for the Honor Guard or Flag  
18 Detail to inspect the flag. After the inspection, resume  
19 reading:

20 After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes  
21 on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the  
22 soldiers who served under General George Washington and the  
23 sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who  
24 were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed  
25 Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights,  
26 privileges and freedoms we enjoy today; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor and  
28 recognize the significance and history of the United States  
29 flag-folding ceremony.