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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1463 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY MIZGORSKI, RYAN, COX, HAHN, READSHAW, MACKENZIE,  
GROVE, KAUFFMAN, CALTAGIRONE, MENTZER, MILLARD, CIRESI,  
SCHMITT, OBERLANDER, SAYLOR, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, SAINATO AND  
GILLEN, MAY 14, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 14, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 38 (Holidays and Observances) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for special observances.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Title 38 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
6 Statutes is amended by adding parts to read:

7 PART I

8 GENERAL PROVISIONS

9 (Reserved)

10 PART II

11 SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

12 Chapter

13 11. Preliminary Provisions (Reserved)

14 13. Veteran Recognition

15 CHAPTER 11

16 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

17 (Reserved)



1       (7) By the end of the conflict, 200 United States Armed  
2 Forces members were killed, including 29 from this  
3 Commonwealth.

4       (8) The bravery of United States Armed Forces and their  
5 allies should be recognized for the liberation of Kuwait and  
6 restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty as an independent nation.

7       (b) Designation.--March 6 of each year is designated as  
8 "First Gulf War Veterans Day."

9       (c) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a  
10 proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational  
11 institutions to observe "First Gulf War Veterans Day" and to  
12 conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those  
13 involved in the first Gulf War and remembering the sacrifices  
14 they made for their country. The proclamation may not mandate a  
15 public school or educational institution to participate in the  
16 observance.

17 § 1303. Afghanistan War Veterans Day.

18       (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General  
19 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

20       (1) The war in Afghanistan, which is America's longest  
21 conflict, began in 2001 and continues to this day.

22       (2) Following the terrorist attacks on September 11,  
23 2001, the United States demanded that the Taliban regime hand  
24 over Osama bin Laden and stop harboring Al Qaeda.

25       (3) President George W. Bush ordered United States Armed  
26 Forces to begin "Operation Enduring Freedom" to combat  
27 terrorism in Afghanistan and confront Al Qaeda.

28       (4) United States Armed Forces first entered Afghanistan  
29 and began combat operations on October 7, 2001.

30       (5) On May 2, 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed during

1 the fighting after President Barack Obama ordered Navy SEALs  
2 to raid Osama bin Laden's compound.

3 (6) On December 28, 2014, the United States and the  
4 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) combat operations  
5 in Afghanistan officially ended.

6 (7) Since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom,  
7 over 830,000 Americans, including 18,000 from this  
8 Commonwealth, have served in Afghanistan.

9 (8) More than 2,000 members of the United States Armed  
10 Forces, including 98 from this Commonwealth, were killed in  
11 action in Afghanistan since combat began.

12 (9) More than 19,000 members of the United States Armed  
13 Forces were wounded in service to their country in  
14 Afghanistan.

15 (b) Designation.--October 7 of each year is designated as  
16 "Afghanistan War Veterans Day."

17 (c) Proclamation.-- The Governor shall issue annually a  
18 proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational  
19 institutions to observe "Afghanistan War Veterans Day" and to  
20 conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those  
21 involved in the war in Afghanistan and remembering the  
22 sacrifices they made for their country. The proclamation may not  
23 mandate a public school or educational institution to  
24 participate in the observance.

25 § 1304. Second Gulf War Veterans Day.

26 (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General  
27 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

28 (1) The second Gulf War was fought from 2003 to 2008.

29 (2) On March 19, 2003, President George W. Bush  
30 announced the beginning of combat operations in Iraq after

1 Saddam Hussein failed to meet the deadline for leaving Iraq.

2 (3) On December 18, 2011, the last member of the United  
3 States Armed Forces left Iraq.

4 (4) Since the beginning of "Operation Iraqi Freedom,"  
5 2.5 million Americans have served in Iraq.

6 (5) More than 4,000 members of the United States Armed  
7 Forces lost their lives during the second Gulf War, including  
8 197 from this Commonwealth, and more than 32,000 were  
9 wounded.

10 (b) Designation.--December 18 of each year is designated  
11 as "Second Gulf War Veterans Day."

12 (c) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a  
13 proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational  
14 institutions to observe "Second Gulf War Veterans Day" and to  
15 conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those  
16 involved in the second Gulf War and remembering the sacrifices  
17 they made for their country. The proclamation may not mandate a  
18 public school or educational institution to participate in the  
19 observance.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.