
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1040 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, D. COSTA, WHEATLEY, MAHER, GOODMAN,
DEASY, RAVENSTAHL, SACCONI, BARRAR, ENGLISH, CLYMER, MARSICO,
DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, AUMENT, ELLIS, McNEILL, McCARTER, MURT,
BIZZARRO, WHITE, W. KELLER, LUCAS, COHEN, K. BOYLE, KIM,
KINSEY, CALTAGIRONE, BISHOP, THOMAS, MILLARD, EMRICK, BOBACK,
MIRABITO, O'NEILL, BROOKS, LONGIETTI, BROWNLEE, KIRKLAND,
CORBIN, VEREB, V. BROWN, MACKENZIE, SONNEY, DAVIS, McGEEHAN,
GODSHALL, HICKERNELL, MAHONEY, SCHLOSSBERG, PAYNE, MARSHALL,
STERN, PICKETT, P. DALEY, HARHAI, FARINA, JAMES, MASSER,
KAUFFMAN, MAJOR, SWANGER, ROSS, YOUNGBLOOD, GRELL, C. HARRIS,
GIBBONS, WATSON, DENLINGER, TALLMAN, ROCK, MENTZER, DeLUCA,
STEVENSON AND OBERLANDER, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the organizing of the
2 Veterans of Foreign Wars in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, September 14 through 17, 2014, marks the 100th
4 anniversary of the consolidation of three organizations created
5 by Spanish-American War veterans into the Veterans of Foreign
6 Wars (VFW) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and

7 WHEREAS, For four days in 1904, veterans traveled from all
8 areas of the United States to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to unify
9 United States veterans under one organizational umbrella of a
10 nationalized Veterans of Foreign Wars by drafting a constitution
11 and bylaws, and

12 WHEREAS, During the VFW convention, then Commander-in-Chief,

1 Rice W. Means, of Denver, Colorado, entreated his comrades to
2 instill in all Americans "a patriot spirit and devotion to the
3 flag"; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Means challenged those in attendance, "We who
5 have seen service in foreign wars, know of the horrors of
6 unpreparedness for war. It would be a crime to send our young
7 men unprepared into another warfare as we were. We want peace,
8 but if war is thrust upon us, we want to be prepared for it.";
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The VFW offers many programs to veterans who have
11 served overseas during an operation or conflict with hostile
12 fire or imminent danger, such as the National Military Services,
13 Operation Uplink, Military Assistance Program, Unmet Needs and
14 National Veterans Services; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the years the VFW has been directly involved in
16 communities through VFW Posts, Men's and Ladies' Auxiliaries,
17 VFW community service programs, citizen education programs,
18 youth scholarship programs, safety programs and the VFW National
19 Home for Children; and

20 WHEREAS, The VFW fought for military pensions after World War
21 I, planned the establishment of the Veterans Administration in
22 1930, lobbied for the GI Bill of Rights after World War II,
23 helped develop the national cemetery system for veterans and
24 contributed millions of dollars to cancer research since the
25 1950s; and

26 WHEREAS, The VFW has challenged elected officials when
27 veterans of our country are not being taken care of, such as the
28 underfunding of health care within the Veterans Administration;
29 therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives celebrate the

1 100th anniversary of the organizing of the Veterans of Foreign
2 Wars in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.