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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1104 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, BOBACK, HENNESSEY, MILLARD, GOODMAN,  
CALTAGIRONE, SCHLEGEL CULVER, SAVAGE, WARD, LONGIETTI,  
V. BROWN, DAVIS, COX, YOUNGBLOOD, MACKENZIE, DIGIROLAMO,  
KIRKLAND, SCHLOSSBERG, REGAN, SAINATO AND PAYNE,  
OCTOBER 25, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 25, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 11 through 17, 2016, as  
2 "Veterans Week of Service" in Pennsylvania to coincide with  
3 the annual Veterans Day observance on November 11, 2016.

4 WHEREAS, Tens of millions of Americans have served in the  
5 United States Armed Forces since the battles of Lexington and  
6 Concord, which kicked off the American Revolutionary War or the  
7 War of Independence, in 1775; and

8 WHEREAS, The past and present sacrifices of each generation  
9 of American men and women who served in the armed forces and the  
10 hundreds of thousands who gave their lives to preserve our  
11 democracy must and should be recognized and honored by all  
12 citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed  
14 November 11 as Armistice Day to honor veterans who fought in  
15 World War I and to commemorate the implementation of an  
16 armistice between the Allies and Germany at the 11th hour on the

1 11th day of November; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed  
3 legislation which changed the name of Armistice Day to Veterans  
4 Day; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1968, Congress passed legislation that  
6 established the fourth Monday in October as the day to  
7 commemorate and honor the military service of generations of  
8 American veterans; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1978, Congress again passed legislation that  
10 reverted the national observance of Veterans Day back to  
11 November 11; and

12 WHEREAS, Not unlike past generations of American veterans,  
13 some contemporary members of our armed forces encounter unique  
14 and difficult circumstances when transitioning from military to  
15 civilian life; and

16 WHEREAS, To meet the unique needs of Vietnam-era veterans and  
17 service members returning from deployment in the Middle East,  
18 especially Iraq and Afghanistan, some veterans continue to lead  
19 and serve through the establishment of charitable organizations;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, In 1982, a group of Vietnam-era veterans in  
22 southwestern Pennsylvania established the Vietnam Veterans  
23 Leadership Program; and

24 WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program was a job  
25 placement and training program for veterans who faced difficulty  
26 finding employment during the economic downturn of the 1980s;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is now the  
29 Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania; and

30 WHEREAS, The primary mission of the Veterans Leadership

1 Program of Western Pennsylvania is to provide essential housing,  
2 employment, education and training assistance, supportive  
3 services, qualified referrals and case management services to  
4 all eligible veterans of western Pennsylvania, service members  
5 and their families with the goal of improving their self-  
6 sufficiency, sustainability and quality of life; and

7 WHEREAS, The Veterans Leadership Program also provides a  
8 Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program that serves homeless  
9 veterans with employment and training assistance; and

10 WHEREAS, The board of directors of the Veterans Leadership  
11 Program of Western Pennsylvania include veterans of the Army,  
12 Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Air National Guard; and

13 WHEREAS, Western Pennsylvania is the home of more than  
14 260,000 veterans, one of the largest concentration of veterans  
15 in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the latest data, the veterans'  
17 population in this Commonwealth totals more than 943,000  
18 veterans; and

19 WHEREAS, In southeastern Pennsylvania, the Greater  
20 Philadelphia Veterans Network (GPVN) was established in 2010 by  
21 a network of veterans working in different industries to mentor  
22 and empower veterans living in southeastern Pennsylvania,  
23 southern New Jersey and Delaware; and

24 WHEREAS, The primary mission of the GPVN is:

25 (1) to assist veterans, national guard and reservists to  
26 find work through career service, programs and initiatives,  
27 mentorships, networking and job leads;

28 (2) to educate employers in the greater Philadelphia  
29 area on how to hire local veterans; and

30 (3) to offer veteran professional leadership and veteran

1 entrepreneurship programs;

2 and

3 WHEREAS, As a nonprofit veterans service organization, the  
4 GPVN is known as an organization that inspires, empowers, and  
5 demands accountability from all veterans it works with; and

6 WHEREAS, The work of GPVN is reflected in its tagline "Our  
7 Tools, Your Mission"; and

8 WHEREAS, The Veterans Leadership Program of Western  
9 Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia Veterans Network are  
10 just two examples of organizations in this Commonwealth and  
11 nationwide that were established by veterans to help veterans  
12 and as an extension of their legacy of service; and

13 WHEREAS, The recognition of Veterans Day gives Americans the  
14 opportunity to thank veterans for their service and recognize  
15 their dedication to preserving our freedoms and democracy; and

16 WHEREAS, Our annual commemoration of Veterans Day still  
17 embodies the original purpose of President Woodrow Wilson's  
18 official Armistice Day proclamation in November 1919, as a day  
19 of reflection "to be filled with the solemn pride in the heroism  
20 of those who died in the Country's service"; and

21 WHEREAS, Veterans serving veterans, inherent in the work of  
22 organizations like the Veterans Leadership Program of Western  
23 Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia Veterans Network,  
24 evidences the willingness of some veterans to continue to lead  
25 and answer the call of service to our country, communities and  
26 their peers; and

27 WHEREAS, These organizations should be honored and recognized  
28 for their efforts to improve the quality of life of veterans in  
29 this Commonwealth; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the

1 week of November 11 through 17, 2016, as "Veterans Week of  
2 Service" in Pennsylvania to coincide with the annual Veterans  
3 Day observance on November 11, 2016; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
5 residents of this Commonwealth to commemorate Veterans Day with  
6 solemn but thankful reflection of the sacrifices and  
7 contributions of all veterans and the legacy of service many  
8 veterans continue to make to country, community and peers in  
9 this Commonwealth and nationwide; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
11 the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.