
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 280 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY KIM, COHEN, LUCAS, CALTAGIRONE, SONNEY, PAYNE, NEUMAN, BIZZARRO, VEREB, LONGIETTI, D. COSTA, P. DALEY, DIGIROLAMO, HENNESSEY, ROZZI, DAVIS, V. BROWN, SACCONI, FREEMAN, O'NEILL, MURT, KINSEY, MILLARD, NEILSON, FARINA, CLYMER, SNYDER, SCHLEGEL CULVER, PICKETT, MCNEILL, QUINN, FLYNN, ROSS, PASHINSKI, PAINTER, SCHLOSSBERG, YOUNGBLOOD, READSHAW, HARHART, SWANGER, BARBIN, MIRABITO, COX, MAJOR, EVERETT, FRANKEL, GRELL, BROWNLEE, MARSHALL, GREINER, MACKENZIE, GIBBONS, KAVULICH, GINGRICH, MOLCHANY, PETRI, GOODMAN, HARHAI, B. BOYLE, ROCK, SABATINA, GILLEN, WHITE, MARSICO, TALLMAN, GROVE, BROOKS, HESS, MICOZZIE, DONATUCCI AND KULA, APRIL 30, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 30, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring firefighters throughout this
2 Commonwealth for their bravery, dedication and heroism and
3 designating May 4, 2013, as "Firefighters' Day" in
4 Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, In 1736, Benjamin Franklin founded the first
6 volunteer fire company, Union Fire Company, in Philadelphia,
7 making Pennsylvania the birthplace of the volunteer fire service
8 in North America; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has approximately 2,400 fire companies,
10 which amounts to the largest number of fire departments
11 nationally. The Commonwealth serves as a national leader in the
12 number of career and paid personnel providing emergency
13 services; and

1 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, volunteers staff 95% of all
2 fire companies. More than 70,000 volunteers, the largest number
3 of volunteer firefighters in the nation, serve on fire companies
4 within this Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, On average, ten Pennsylvania firefighters die in the
6 line of duty every year; and

7 WHEREAS, Firefighters perform selfless tasks quietly and
8 often without the recognition they deserve, risking their lives
9 daily to protect the lives and property of the citizens of this
10 Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, Changes in society and in the environment have
12 increased the dangers these individuals face daily in the
13 performance of their duties as protectors of the citizens and
14 property of this Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, The increased threat of terrorism, illicit drug labs
16 and hazardous material incidents have placed firefighters in
17 greater danger than ever before in the history of firefighting;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Although Pennsylvania has always depended heavily on
20 its firefighters, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001,
21 and the heightened awareness of future threats have only
22 increased their important role as first responders; and

23 WHEREAS, The time that firefighters devote to protecting the
24 lives and property of the citizens of this Commonwealth
25 represents time taken away from their family members; and

26 WHEREAS, May 4 annually serves as International Firefighters
27 Day, a worldwide celebration that started in 1999 in Australia
28 when a firefighter named J.J. Edmondson, in reaction to a tragic
29 wildfire that claimed the lives of five firefighters, sent an
30 e-mail to his colleagues calling for an international holiday to

1 honor the sacrifices and triumphs of firefighters everywhere;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Since that time International Firefighters Day has
4 grown to become a date in which the world's community can stand
5 together to recognize and honor sacrifices made by all
6 firefighters in their efforts to guarantee safety within their
7 communities. It serves as a time to thank current and past
8 firefighters for their contributions and to remember those men
9 and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to save and
10 protect lives in their neighborhoods; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
12 honor the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters in this
13 Commonwealth, extend thanks for their service and, on the
14 occasion of International Firefighters' Day, designate May 4,
15 2013, as "International Firefighters' Day" in Pennsylvania; and
16 be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all Members
18 of the General Assembly and elected officials and residents
19 across this Commonwealth to make efforts to honor and remember
20 firefighters in Pennsylvania for their dedication, service and
21 sacrifice, including the giving of their lives, in order to
22 protect the lives and property of the citizens of this
23 Commonwealth. Such efforts may include wearing and displaying
24 blue and red ribbons pinned together, participating in a
25 memorial or recognition event, rising together in a public
26 meeting or gathering in honor of the sacrifices of firefighters
27 or by at least pausing for a minute at noon on the first Sunday
28 in May as a sign of gratitude for their service.