
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 623 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY DALEY, BRIGGS, QUIGLEY, HENNESSEY, MILLARD,
TOOHIL, READSHAW, RYAN, DAVIS, LONGIETTI, MARSICO, KINSEY,
VITALI, BARBIN, NEILSON, CORR, CALTAGIRONE, WATSON, PASHINSKI
AND DIGIROLAMO, DECEMBER 7, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
DECEMBER 7, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Matson's
2 Ford and recognizing the historical significance of the
3 Matsonford Bridge in Montgomery County.

4 WHEREAS, The Battle of White Marsh was a military action on
5 December 5, 1777, that preceded the Battle of Matson's Ford and
6 represented General George Washington and the Continental Army's
7 attempt to forestall a covert plan by the British to destroy
8 General Washington's army prior to the onset of winter; and

9 WHEREAS, Following General Washington's successful efforts at
10 repelling British-led attacks, General Washington and the
11 Continental Army set out to relocate their winter quarters to a
12 site west of the Schuylkill River in Valley Forge; and

13 WHEREAS, The Battle of Matson's Ford occurred on December 11,
14 1777, which was a battle in the Philadelphia campaign of the
15 American Revolutionary War in the area surrounding present-day
16 Conshohocken and West Conshohocken; and

17 WHEREAS, Comprised of a series of military skirmishes during

1 the morning of December 11, 1777, both a picket of Continental
2 soldiers stationed at Middle Ferry and the militia stationed at
3 the Black Horse Inn and Harriton House fired upon a British
4 foraging expedition leaving Philadelphia, which subsequently
5 resulted in them being overrun by British forces; and

6 WHEREAS, In an effort to find adequate cover from British
7 attacks, Continental troops and militiamen retreated back
8 through Gulph Mills to Swede's Ford, which is present-day
9 Norristown, Pennsylvania; and

10 WHEREAS, Under the direction of General John Sullivan, a
11 makeshift bridge consisting of lashed together wagons was
12 constructed for the purpose of enabling Continental troops and
13 militiamen to safely and efficiently travel across the
14 Schuylkill River; and

15 WHEREAS, As the British pursued the Continental troops and
16 militiamen, General Sullivan ordered the destruction of the
17 makeshift bridge in an effort to thwart the continued
18 advancement of British troops, effectively bringing the Battle
19 of Matson's Ford to a conclusion; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1833, a covered bridge was built by the
21 Matsonford Bridge Company in the location of the makeshift
22 bridge that was constructed by the Continental Army in 1777; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1872, the Matsonford Bridge was replaced by a
24 steel bridge after falling into a state of disrepair; and

25 WHEREAS, In 1921, the Matsonford Bridge was renovated to
26 include arches and other aesthetic features in response to
27 advances in our society's mode of transportation, which evolved
28 from horses and buggies to self-propelled automobiles; and

29 WHEREAS, In 1987, the Matsonford Bridge was once again
30 rebuilt as a result of the increased volume of vehicle traffic

1 in the 20th century; and

2 WHEREAS, December 11, 2017, marks the 240th anniversary of
3 the Battle of Matson's Ford, a historical event that contributed
4 to the intricate motif of America's successful pursuit of
5 independence from Great Britain; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
7 240th anniversary of the Battle of Matson's Ford and recognize
8 the historical significance of the Matsonford Bridge in
9 Montgomery County.