
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 655 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY D. COSTA, READSHAW, KORTZ, D. MILLER, RAVENSTAHL, KINSEY, KIM, SCHREIBER, MUSTIO, HARKINS, COHEN, TOEPEL, MCGEEHAN, P. COSTA, KAUFFMAN, KOTIK, REED, ROZZI, CONKLIN, SCHLOSSBERG, B. BOYLE, ENGLISH, NEUMAN, YOUNGBLOOD, SAINATO, AUMENT, LUCAS, DAVIS, KIRKLAND, HENNESSEY, SNYDER, HARHAI, PEIFER, MILLARD, BIZZARRO, MICOZZIE, P. DALEY, WHITE, CALTAGIRONE, BROWNLEE, DIGIROLAMO, PICKETT, M. K. KELLER, MARSHALL, FARINA, MAJOR, HAGGERTY, RAPP, GRELL, SONNEY, GOODMAN, THOMAS, STERN, C. HARRIS, MAHONEY, GIBBONS, O'NEILL, FRANKEL, ROCK, TURZAI, MOLCHANY, HAHN, MCNEILL, GROVE, MIRABITO, MENTZER, SWANGER, GINGRICH, EVERETT, MARSICO, MURT AND WATSON, FEBRUARY 19, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 19, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and service of Rocco, a Pittsburgh Bureau of
2 Police Canine Officer who valiantly gave his life in the line
3 of duty to protect others, and offering condolences to those
4 whose lives were positively impacted by Rocco.

5 WHEREAS, Rocco, an eight-year old German Shepherd and member
6 of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police K-9 Unit, made the ultimate
7 sacrifice while protecting his fellow police officers from a
8 criminal; and

9 WHEREAS, Two days after Rocco suffered a life-threatening
10 stab wound, he tragically lost his battle to survive and
11 succumbed to his injuries on January 30, 2014; and

12 WHEREAS, If it were not for Rocco's bravery, other officers
13 may have been more seriously injured or killed; and

1 WHEREAS, Rocco was trained to be a police dog at the
2 Pittsburgh K-9 Academy, which trains canines and pairs them with
3 officers to enhance the public's safety, expand police
4 capabilities and improve department efficiency overall; and

5 WHEREAS, After an extensive three-month training program,
6 Rocco was assigned to the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police in 2008;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, He became one of only 21 canines on the force; and

9 WHEREAS, Rocco was Officer Philip Lerza's partner since 2010;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, This fearless canine was a "dual purpose" dog that
12 trained in areas of explosives and gun detection, as well as
13 regular patrol; and

14 WHEREAS, Rocco received full police honors during a memorial
15 service on February 7, 2014, at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial
16 Hall and Museum in Pittsburgh; and

17 WHEREAS, Every day, police dogs courageously serve an
18 important purpose for many police departments and communities
19 across this Commonwealth; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
21 and service of Rocco who valiantly gave his life in the line of
22 duty to protect others and offer its condolences to those whose
23 lives were positively impacted by Rocco; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
25 the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, 1203 Western Avenue,
26 Pittsburgh, PA 15233.