

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 676 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY VEREB, D. COSTA, TURZAI, REED, MARSICO, ACOSTA, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, BIZZARRO, BOYLE, BRADFORD, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, COHEN, CORBIN, COX, CUTLER, DAVIS, DAY, DEASY, DELOZIER, DRISCOLL, DUSH, ELLIS, ENGLISH, EVERETT, FARRY, FEE, FREEMAN, GIBBONS, GILLEN, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GREINER, HAHN, HARHART, A. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, PHILLIPS-HILL, IRVIN, JOZWIAK, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, W. KELLER, KILLION, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MATZIE, MCGINNIS, MCNEILL, MENTZER, MILLARD, MILNE, MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, OBERLANDER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PETRARCA, PETRI, PICKETT, QUIGLEY, READSHAW, REGAN, ROSS, ROZZI, SACCONI, SAINATO, SANTARSIERO, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHREIBER, SIMMONS, SONNEY, STAATS, STEPHENS, TAYLOR, THOMAS, TOEPEL, TOOHIL, WARD, WATSON, WHEELAND, WHITE AND MAHONEY, MARCH 17, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 17, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the memory of law enforcement officers who gave their  
 2 lives in the line of duty in this Commonwealth and  
 3 recognizing the memorial service in their honor at the Forum  
 4 Auditorium in the City of Harrisburg May 2, 2016.

5 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Eric A. Eslary, Detective Paul John  
 6 Koropal, Sergeant Sheryl A. Pierce, Police Officer Lloyd Reed,  
 7 Jr., Patrolman John James Wilding and Police Officer Robert  
 8 Wilson III paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty; and

9 WHEREAS, On May 5, 2015, Lieutenant Eric A. Eslary of the  
 10 Ligonier Township Police Department, Westmoreland County, was  
 11 killed in an accident when his patrol vehicle was struck by a

1 van driving the wrong way on a divided highway; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition to the fatality of Lieutenant Eslary,  
3 his canine partner suffered serious injury and underwent surgery  
4 and the two occupants of the van were critically injured; and

5 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Eslary had served the Ligonier Township  
6 Police Department for 17 years; and

7 WHEREAS, On May 5, 2015, Detective Paul John Koropal of the  
8 Allegheny County District Attorney's Office - Investigative  
9 Division, suffered a fatal heart attack while participating in  
10 serving multiple search warrants, as part of a Federal narcotics  
11 task force in Fayette County; and

12 WHEREAS, Detective Koropal had served with the Allegheny  
13 County District Attorney's Office for 18 years and was assigned  
14 to the Pennsylvania State Police Auto Theft Task Force; and

15 WHEREAS, On September 14, 2013, Sergeant Sheryl A. Pierce of  
16 the South Londonderry Township Police Department, Lebanon  
17 County, died as a result of Hepatitis C, which she contracted in  
18 1994 while subduing a man who was bleeding profusely; and

19 WHEREAS, Sergeant Pierce had served with the South  
20 Londonderry Township Police Department for 13 years; and

21 WHEREAS, On November 28, 2015, Police Officer Lloyd Reed,  
22 Jr., of the St. Clair Township Police Department, Westmoreland  
23 County, was shot and killed while responding to a domestic  
24 disturbance call at a residence; and

25 WHEREAS, Despite being wounded by the suspect, Officer Reed  
26 was able to return fire and wound the subject, who was later  
27 arrested by the Pennsylvania State Police; and

28 WHEREAS, Officer Reed had served the St. Clair Township  
29 Police Department for five years and had a total of 25 years'  
30 experience as a law enforcement officer; and

1       WHEREAS, On July 12, 2015, Patrolman John James Wilding of  
2 the Scranton Police Department, Lackawanna County, succumbed to  
3 a serious head injury sustained the previous night while  
4 pursuing on foot three juveniles suspected of having stolen a  
5 vehicle; and

6       WHEREAS, All three juveniles were arrested and charged as  
7 adults with robbery, terroristic threats and recklessly  
8 endangering another person; and

9       WHEREAS, Patrolman Wilding had served with the Scranton  
10 Police Department for one year; and

11       WHEREAS, On March 5, 2015, Police Officer Robert Wilson III  
12 of the Philadelphia Police Department was shot and killed in a  
13 shoot-out when he and his partner interrupted a robbery by two  
14 men at a video games store; and

15       WHEREAS, As he drew fire away from customers and employees,  
16 Police Officer Wilson was fatally struck three times and, as the  
17 suspects exited the store, they engaged in a shoot-out with his  
18 partner before they were arrested and charged with Police  
19 Officer Wilson's murder; and

20       WHEREAS, Police Officer Wilson had served with the  
21 Philadelphia Police Department for eight years; and

22       WHEREAS, "National Police Memorial Day" is held on May 15  
23 each year; and

24       WHEREAS, The week containing May 15 is celebrated each year  
25 as "National Police Week"; and

26       WHEREAS, On October 1, 1962, Joint Resolution 730 of the 87th  
27 Congress of the United States was signed, authorizing the  
28 President of the United States to proclaim May 15 of each year  
29 as "Peace Officers Memorial Day"; and

30       WHEREAS, Twenty years passed before the first "National

1 Police Memorial Day" was recognized May 15, 1982; and

2 WHEREAS, May 15 has continued to be observed annually in  
3 memory of those police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice  
4 in the line of duty; and

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State Lodge of the Fraternal Order  
6 of Police presents the annual memorial service in this  
7 Commonwealth; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the  
9 memories of Lieutenant Eric A. Eslary, Detective Paul John  
10 Koropal, Sergeant Sheryl A. Pierce, Police Officer Lloyd Reed,  
11 Jr., Patrolman John James Wilding and Police Officer Robert  
12 Wilson III, who gave their lives in the line of duty in this  
13 Commonwealth; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
15 memorial service in their honor at the Forum Auditorium in the  
16 City of Harrisburg May 2, 2016.