

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 896 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY KIM, QUIGLEY, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, BAKER, HAHN, COX, NEILSON, M. K. KELLER, VEREB, SONNEY, DUSH, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, COHEN, ROZZI, V. BROWN, PASHINSKI, D. COSTA, WARD, MURT, LONGIETTI, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, JAMES, HARHART, REGAN, DAVIDSON, DAVIS, ROSS, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD, READSHAW, GROVE, McNEILL, MILNE, WHEELAND, O'NEILL, ELLIS, MAHONEY, PAYNE, FARINA, HELM, BENNINGHOFF, LEWIS, PETRI, HARHAI, MARSHALL, SAINATO, PHILLIPS-HILL, GOODMAN, DONATUCCI, GILLEN, CALTAGIRONE, MCCLINTON AND WATSON, MAY 19, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 19, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the service and sacrifice of Captain Arthur E. Halfpapp  
2 as he is returned home to this Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, A native of Steelton, Pennsylvania, Captain Arthur  
4 E. Halfpapp was assigned to the 87th Fighter Squadron, 79th  
5 Fighter Group, during World War II; and

6 WHEREAS, During his 103rd mission, on April 24, 1945, Captain  
7 Halfpapp departed Cesenatico, Italy, on an armed reconnaissance  
8 mission, intending to bomb and strafe motor transport targets  
9 southeast of Alberone, Italy; and

10 WHEREAS, Flying in a P-47 Thunderbolt, Captain Halfpapp led  
11 his section of the flight parallel to the Po River; and

12 WHEREAS, Moving from west to east, the flight dove toward the  
13 target of 8 to 10 vehicles; and

14 WHEREAS, At approximately 2,000 feet, Captain Halfpapp's P-47

1 started into a roll and continued directly into the ground,  
2 crashing in an inverted position and immediately bursting into  
3 flames; and

4 WHEREAS, Shortly after the crash, the flight leader circled  
5 the burning wreckage for 10 minutes and failed to see any signs  
6 of human life; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1947, the American Graves Registration Service  
8 units searched the entire length of the Po River, including the  
9 north and south banks, and were unable to locate Captain  
10 Halfpapp's crash site or recover his identifiable remains; and

11 WHEREAS, On October 5, 2014, founding members of the Italian  
12 association, Archeologi dell'Aria, contacted the Defense  
13 Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office to report the group's  
14 excavation of a crash site possibly associated with Captain  
15 Halfpapp's incident and the recovery of possible human remains  
16 and identification material; and

17 WHEREAS, Further investigation of the crash site confirmed  
18 that belongings and remains were that of Captain Halfpapp; and

19 WHEREAS, Captain Halfpapp is a highly decorated combat pilot  
20 who gave his life for his country during World War II,  
21 completing more than 100 combat missions, and was part of the  
22 June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion; and

23 WHEREAS, Captain Halfpapp was also one of the first fighter  
24 bomber pilots of the initial attack on German-occupied France  
25 and also one of the first to raid enemy bases in Germany and  
26 Austria; and

27 WHEREAS, Captain Halfpapp's medals include the Distinguished  
28 Flying Cross, Purple Heart, European-African-Middle Eastern  
29 Campaign Medal, Bronze Star and World War II Victory Medal; and

30 WHEREAS, The repatriated remains of a war hero, Captain

1 Arthur E. Halfpapp, will be returned to the United States and  
2 placed to rest at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on April  
3 14, 2016; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the service  
5 and sacrifice of Captain Arthur E. Halfpapp; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives welcome Captain  
7 Arthur E. Halfpapp as he returns home, for the final time, to  
8 this Commonwealth.