

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 994 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, DiGIROLAMO, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, BISHOP, BIZZARRO, SCHLOSSBERG, VEREB, CALTAGIRONE, KOTIK, MIRABITO, O'NEILL, McGEEHAN, MILLARD, McNEILL, RAVENSTAHL, KINSEY, FLECK, GIBBONS, LUCAS, FARINA, MURT, SANKEY, MARSHALL, DEASY, FRANKEL, MAHONEY, GINGRICH, PASHINSKI, McCARTER, DeLUCA, BROWNLEE AND D. COSTA, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Pennsylvania native and former United States Surgeon  
2 General Dr. Jesse L. Steinfeld.

3 WHEREAS, Jesse Leonard Steinfeld was born in West Aliquippa,  
4 Beaver County, Pennsylvania, on January 6, 1927; and

5 WHEREAS, Jesse L. Steinfeld graduated from high school at 16  
6 years of age and received his bachelor of science degree from  
7 the University of Pittsburgh just 19 months later in 1945; and

8 WHEREAS, At 22 years of age, Jesse L. Steinfeld received his  
9 medical degree from Western Reserve University in 1949; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Steinfeld studied oncology during a residency at  
11 the University of California, San Francisco Hospital and  
12 eventually became an instructor of medicine in the early 1950s;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, From 1954 to 1958, Dr. Steinfeld served as director  
15 of the Radioisotope Laboratory of the National Cancer Institute

1 at the National Institutes of Health and simultaneously held an  
2 appointment as an instructor in medicine at the George  
3 Washington University School of Medicine; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1959, he joined the faculty of the University of  
5 Southern California School of Medicine as an assistant professor  
6 of medicine, eventually rising through the ranks to associate  
7 professor in 1963 and professor in 1967; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Steinfeld moved back to the Washington, DC area  
9 in 1968 to again work at the National Cancer Institute and was  
10 appointed deputy assistant secretary for health and scientific  
11 affairs later that year; and

12 WHEREAS, On December 18, 1969, Dr. Steinfeld was appointed  
13 United States Surgeon General by President Richard Nixon; and

14 WHEREAS, During Dr. Steinfeld's tenure as Surgeon General,  
15 two new Public Health Service programs were established, namely  
16 the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and  
17 the National Health Service Corps; and

18 WHEREAS, Continuing the previous research and discussion  
19 offered by his Surgeon General predecessors, Luther L. Terry and  
20 William H. Stewart, Dr. Steinfeld warned of the dangers of  
21 smoking and was among the first public health officials to warn  
22 of secondhand smoke; and

23 WHEREAS, It was during Dr. Steinfeld's tenure as Surgeon  
24 General in 1970 that warning labels on cigarette packs were  
25 strengthened to say: "Warning: The Surgeon General has  
26 determined that cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health";  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, In 1971, Dr. Steinfeld proposed that smoking be  
29 prohibited in public spaces, such as buses, trains, airplanes,  
30 restaurants and theaters; and

1       WHEREAS, In addition to his work on the dangers of smoking,  
2 Dr. Steinfeld addressed a number of other public health  
3 concerns, such as carcinogens in food, the use of pesticides,  
4 the safety of certain sugar substitutes and detergents and the  
5 dangers of violence on television; and

6       WHEREAS, After his resignation as Surgeon General on January  
7 30, 1973, Dr. Steinfeld remained active professionally, and held  
8 several teaching and administrative positions at medical schools  
9 and hospitals, until his retirement as President of the Medical  
10 College of Georgia in 1987; and

11       WHEREAS, Dr. Steinfeld passed away on August 5, 2014, due to  
12 complications from a stroke; and

13       WHEREAS, Dr. Steinfeld is survived by his wife of 61 years,  
14 Gen M. Stokes Steinfeld, his three daughters, Mary Beth  
15 Steinfeld, Susan Steinfeld and Jody Stefansson and two  
16 grandchildren; therefore be it

17       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
18 service of native Pennsylvanian Dr. Jesse L. Steinfeld and his  
19 noble contributions to the health and welfare of the American  
20 people.