THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 186 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, DINNIMAN, FERLO, WASHINGTON, GREENLEAF, ERICKSON, STACK, FONTANA, BRUBAKER, SCHWANK, BROWNE, COSTA, PILEGGI AND BREWSTER, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the ideals of Peace Day, September 21, 2013.

2 WHEREAS, The ideal of peace encompasses the deepest hopes of

3 all peoples and remains humanity's guiding inspiration; and

4 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth was founded by William Penn on the

5 principles of peace, freedom and equality; and

6 WHEREAS, The United Nations believes in this same vision and

7 works to promote the ideals and principles of peace and human

8 rights across the globe; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1981, the United Nations General Assembly

10 unanimously declared the International Day of Peace be "devoted

11 to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace within

12 and among all nations and peoples"; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2001, the United Nations unanimously established

14 the United Nations International Day of Peace as September 21 to

15 be observed each year in promotion of global ceasefire and

16 nonviolence; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2009, the United States Senate passed S. Res. 274

1 (2009), a resolution expressing its support for the goals and

2 ideals celebrated on Peace Day and for "continuing efforts to

3 raise global awareness of the goals of Peace Day and to engage

4 all sectors of society in the peaceful observance of the

5 International Day of Peace"; and

6 WHEREAS, On September 21, 2013, people in cities across the

7 world came together through diverse peace education activities,

8 nonviolence skill-building, music, marches, spiritual

9 activities, arts projects, community events, environmental

10 efforts and intercultural dialogues, all for the purpose of

11 forwarding a culture of peace; and

12 WHEREAS, Peace Day observances are wide ranging, with many

13 organizations and cities across this Commonwealth, from

14 Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, creating practical acts of peace for

15 our citizens to further understand and actively participate in a

16 movement of nonviolence; and

17 WHEREAS, The Peace Day Philly initiative encouraged the

18 active and meaningful participation in the International Day of

19 Peace and provided a platform across the Philadelphia region and

20 beyond for more than 25 peace-related events for Peace Day 2013;

21 and

22 WHEREAS, On September 21 at 12 noon in all time zones, people

23 of all nationalities and religions observed a minute of silence,

24 as put forth by Pathways to Peace, the nonprofit, nonpartisan

25 organization instrumental in the first United Nations resolution

26 in support of Peace Day, and as encouraged by the United Nations

27 Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; and

28 WHEREAS, The United Nations' theme for Peace Day 2013 was

29 "Education For Peace"; and

30 WHEREAS, It has been stated by the United Nations Secretary-

1 General Ban Ki-moon, "It is not enough to teach children how to
2 read, write and count. Education has to cultivate mutual respect
3 for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge
4 more just, inclusive and peaceful societies"; and

5 WHEREAS, Conflict resolution and transformation, mediation,
6 mindfulness training and many other skill-based aspects of peace
7 education, as well as intercultural dialogue and other forms of
8 diversity and global awareness activities, are critical to the
9 development of peace-building skills and global citizenship
10 among children and youth; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate express its support for the goals
12 and ideals celebrated worldwide on September 21, 2013, and
13 encourage and commend all citizens of this Commonwealth who
14 actively promote and participate in diverse peace, nonviolence
15 and unity-building activities in observance of the International
16 Day of Peace.