
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 315 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, JUNE 15, 2022

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 15, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and achievements of former State Senator
2 Robert R. Gerhart, Jr., who passed away August 23, 2021, at
3 100 years of age.

4 WHEREAS, Born in Robesonia on December 21, 1920, Robert
5 Gerhart, Jr., graduated from Robesonia High School in 1937 and
6 earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Albright
7 College in 1941; and

8 WHEREAS, A veteran of the United States Army, Mr. Gerhart
9 served this country with honor and distinction during World War
10 II; and

11 WHEREAS, From 1948 until 1968, Mr. Gerhart managed the
12 political campaigns of many regional candidates, and in 1948, he
13 also became the editor and publisher of "The New Era"; and

14 WHEREAS, As Vice President of the International Labor Press
15 Association for 10 years, Mr. Gerhart established a public
16 relations firm, Roberts and Company, in the 1950s and served as
17 the public relations director for many area clients; and

18 WHEREAS, An entrepreneur, Mr. Gerhart was a founding partner
19 of the Suburban TV Cable Company of Berks County, the operator

1 of the Tahiti Motel and the owner and operator of Diamond Beach
2 Resorts and several clubs in New Jersey and New York; and

3 WHEREAS, Politically active from a young age, Mr. Gerhart was
4 elected Democratic Committeeperson and President of the
5 Robesonia Borough Council; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Gerhart was elected to the House of
7 Representatives in 1967, and he went on to serve the 11th
8 District in the Senate from 1969 to 1972; and

9 WHEREAS, Appointed as Executive Director of the State Public
10 School Building Authority and the Pennsylvania Higher Education
11 Facilities Authority in 1972, Mr. Gerhart is credited with
12 salvaging Point Park University from bankruptcy; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life and achievements of
14 former State Senator Robert R. Gerhart, Jr., who passed away
15 August 23, 2021, at 100 years of age; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate express heartfelt condolences to
17 Mr. Gerhart's wife of 17 years, Joan Turjoman Gerhart; sons,
18 Philip and Robert III; daughter, Sallie Gerhart-Light; stepsons,
19 John Turjoman and Tony Turjoman; three grandchildren; one
20 stepgrandchild; and four great-grandchildren.