
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 360 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Dr. Frank Erdman Boston as a World War I
2 veteran, military surgeon, community doctor and founder of
3 the Elm Terrace/Lansdale Hospital and the Volunteer Medical
4 Service Corps (VMSC) ambulance corps.

5 WHEREAS, Frank Erdman Boston was born March 10, 1891, in
6 Philadelphia to Charles A. Boston, a Civil War veteran who
7 served in the 12th Regiment, Pennsylvania Calvary of the 113th
8 Pennsylvania Volunteers and was in the battle of Winchester, VA,
9 in 1864, and Julia M. Boston, who was part French and Native
10 American, who worked as a hairdresser, taught Dr. Boston at a
11 young age, of the healing powers of herbs and natural remedies
12 which would influence his career path; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Boston attended Lincoln University, originally
14 established as The Ashmun Institute, the nation's first degree-
15 granting Historically Black College and University; and

16 WHEREAS, Subsequently, Dr. Boston attended the Medico-
17 Chirurgical College, an outgrowth of the Medico-Chirurgical
18 Society of Philadelphia which merged with the University of
19 Pennsylvania Medical College and Jefferson Medical College; and

1 WHEREAS, When World War I began, Dr. Boston enlisted and was
2 immediately given the rank of first lieutenant in the Army
3 Medical Reserve Corps; and

4 WHEREAS, African-American recruits, including Dr. Boston,
5 were sent for medical training at the Medical Officers Training
6 Camp, Fort Des Moines, Iowa; and

7 WHEREAS, After completing his training, Dr. Boston was
8 assigned as a medical officer with the 317th Engineers Regiment
9 of the 92nd Division of the American Expeditionary Forces; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Boston's division fought bravely across France
11 and in the bloody Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the largest operation
12 of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I; and

13 WHEREAS, The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was the deadliest
14 campaign in American history, resulting in more than 26,000
15 soldiers killed in action and more than 120,000 total
16 casualties; and

17 WHEREAS, During his tour of duty, Dr. Boston treated soldiers
18 while under aerial and gas attack; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Boston served in France with the rank of captain
20 and ended his military service as a major; and

21 WHEREAS, After the war, Dr. Boston returned to work in
22 Philadelphia and later settled in Lansdale where he opened the
23 Elm Terrace Hospital, which was later renamed North Penn
24 Hospital and subsequently became part of the Abington Jefferson
25 Health Systems; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Boston also formed a First Aid Emergency Squad
27 in Lansdale, eventually known as the Volunteer Medical Service
28 Corps of Lansdale; and

29 WHEREAS, As a Boy Scout official, Dr. Boston served as
30 chairman of Health and Safety for the General Nash District,

1 Valley Forge Scout Council; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Boston was a member of the Reserve Officers
3 Association of Military Surgeons, the Montgomery County Medical
4 Society and the American Medical Association; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Boston died February 8, 1960, at 69 years of age
6 and was buried in Lansdale; and

7 WHEREAS, Jefferson Health and Abington Lansdale Hospital,
8 along with the Borough of Lansdale, are honoring Dr. Boston and
9 a mural is being planned for the Lansdale Borough Hall;

10 therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life of Dr. Frank Erdman
12 Boston as a World War I veteran, military surgeon, community
13 doctor and founder of the Elm Terrace/Lansdale Hospital and the
14 Volunteer Medical Service Corps (VMSC) ambulance corps.