
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 389 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, DINNIMAN, TEPLITZ, RESCHENTHALER,
ARGALL, BLAKE, COSTA, FONTANA, KITCHEN, FARNESE AND
GREENLEAF, JUNE 13, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 13, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Muhammad Ali, a trailblazing athlete, civil
2 rights activist, humanitarian, philanthropist and global
3 citizen, and mourning his death.

4 WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali touched countless lives with his
5 unwavering spirit and was not only a monumental athlete, but
6 also a symbol of black aspirations and independence; and

7 WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali died of septic shock due to unspecified
8 natural causes in a Phoenix, Arizona, hospital on June 3, 2016;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Ali, born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., on
11 January 17, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky, was the son of a
12 painter and a child of the segregated south; and

13 WHEREAS, Responsible for some of the most legendary moments
14 in the ring, Mr. Ali's incomparable work ethic and innovative
15 boxing strategies introduced a groundbreaking approach to the
16 sport that had never been seen before; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Ali's work ethic and confidence proved to be a
18 recipe for success, allowing him to win the 1960 Olympic Gold

1 Medal in Rome and be the first three-time heavyweight champion
2 with a career record of 56 wins, 5 losses and 37 knockouts; and

3 WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali spent time in Pennsylvania training
4 first on a mink farm in Reading and later at a training camp he
5 established in the countryside of Deer Lake, where he prepared
6 for all of his fights from 1972 onward; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Ali said, "Boxing was just a means to introduce
8 me to the world," and he truly was a citizen of the world; and

9 WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali was fearless in his stance on civil
10 rights, his early relationship with the Nation of Islam and his
11 insistence on being called Muhammad Ali instead of Cassius Clay
12 in 1964, which heralded a new era in black pride; and

13 WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali's willingness to speak out on civil
14 rights issues, as well as his opposition to his induction to the
15 Vietnam War draft citing religious reasons, were highly
16 controversial and posed great peril to his career; and

17 WHEREAS, As the reigning World Heavyweight Champion in 1967,
18 Mr. Ali was stripped of his titles, arrested and exiled from
19 boxing for three years for his refusal to participate in the
20 Vietnam War because it was against his religious convictions;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Ali never wavered, becoming the voice of a
23 generation that opposed military involvement in Vietnam and
24 sought social justice in the United States; and

25 WHEREAS, Subsequent to his victory before the Supreme Court
26 of the United States in defense of his conscientious objections
27 to the Vietnam War, Muhammad Ali won back his title that was
28 stripped from him in 1974 by changing people's perception of
29 what it meant to be a champion; and

30 WHEREAS, In 1984, Muhammad Ali took his fight outside of the

1 ring against Parkinson's disease; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Ali's tireless efforts in the face of a
3 degenerative disease were recognized all over the world when he
4 created the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Ali traveled the world to advocate for
6 Parkinson's disease research and endeavored on many other
7 humanitarian, goodwill and charitable missions; and

8 WHEREAS, Not only did Muhammad Ali receive the Sports
9 Illustrated "Sportsman of the Century" honors in 1999, he was
10 granted the highest honor for civilians in the United States by
11 receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 from
12 President George W. Bush; and

13 WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali was not just a fighter in the ring, but
14 a fighter for social justice, a fighter for understanding and a
15 fighter for peace; and

16 WHEREAS, Wanting nothing more than to fight for the rights of
17 others, Mr. Ali said, "The more we help others, the more we help
18 ourselves"; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life of Muhammad Ali, a
20 trailblazing athlete, civil rights activist, humanitarian,
21 philanthropist and global citizen, and mourn his death.