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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 47 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY PHILLIPS-HILL, PITTMAN, BROOKS, VOGEL, HUGHES,  
MARTIN, BARTOLOTTA, ROTHMAN, PENNYCUICK AND MASTRIANO,  
FEBRUARY 24, 2023

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 3, 2023, as "Four Chaplains Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On January 11, 1943, the United States Army  
4 Transport Dorchester sailed from New York to Greenland carrying  
5 more than 900 soldiers, merchant marines and civilian support  
6 forces; and

7 WHEREAS, Shortly after midnight on February 3, 1943, the  
8 Dorchester was struck by a torpedo fired without warning from a  
9 German U-boat patrolling the North Atlantic, instantly killing  
10 100 men and cutting off power and radio communication with  
11 escort ships; and

12 WHEREAS, In the 20 minutes before the ship sank, four Army  
13 chaplains, Lieutenants George L. Fox (Methodist), Alexander D.  
14 Goode (Jewish), John P. Washington (Roman Catholic) and Clark V.  
15 Poling (Dutch Reformed), comforted the dying, encouraged the  
16 living, guided survivors to lifeboats and gave up their own life  
17 jackets to men who had none, sacrificing their own lives for

1 those of their spiritual charges; and

2 WHEREAS, Because the four chaplains were technically  
3 ineligible for the Medal of Honor, the Congress of the United  
4 States authorized a onetime posthumous Special Medal for Heroism  
5 which was presented to the four chaplains' next of kin on  
6 January 18, 1961, in addition to the Purple Hearts and  
7 Distinguished Service Crosses already awarded to them; and

8 WHEREAS, The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation, located in  
9 Philadelphia, continues to honor their peerless legacy by  
10 recognizing residents who perform exemplary service to their  
11 communities; and

12 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Goode spent the final years of his life  
13 in York, Pennsylvania, where an elementary school in the York  
14 City School District proudly bears his name to honor his valor  
15 and sacrifice; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2023, the Four Chaplains Memorial of York County  
17 organization will hold its 31st anniversary gathering to honor  
18 the legacy of the Four Chaplains; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate February 3, 2023, as  
20 "Four Chaplains Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the sacrifice and inspiring  
22 selflessness of Lieutenants Fox, Goode, Washington and Poling.