

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 110 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY ORIE, SOLOBAY, SCARNATI, PILEGGI, PIPPY, ALLOWAY, ARGALL, BAKER, BREWSTER, BRUBAKER, COSTA, DINNIMAN, EARLL, ERICKSON, FARNESE, FONTANA, GORDNER, GREENLEAF, HUGHES, KASUNIC, KITCHEN, LEACH, McILHINNEY, RAFFERTY, STACK, TARTAGLIONE, TOMLINSON, WARD, WASHINGTON, WAUGH, M. WHITE, YAW, YUDICHAK, SCHWANK, EICHELBERGER, VOGEL AND ROBBINS, MAY 3, 2011

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 3, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring firefighters throughout this
2 Commonwealth for their bravery, dedication and heroism and
3 designating May 4, 2011, as "Firefighters' Day" in
4 Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, In 1736, Benjamin Franklin founded the first
6 volunteer fire company, Union Fire Company, in Philadelphia,
7 making Pennsylvania the birthplace of the volunteer fire service
8 in North America; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has approximately 2,400 fire companies;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has the largest number of fire
12 departments in the nation and is a national leader in the number
13 of career and paid personnel providing emergency services; and

14 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, 95% of fire companies are
15 staffed by volunteers, totaling about 78,000 volunteers, the
16 largest number of volunteer firefighters in the nation; and

1 WHEREAS, On average, ten Pennsylvania firefighters die in the
2 line of duty every year; and

3 WHEREAS, Firefighters perform selfless tasks quietly and
4 often without the recognition they deserve, risking their lives
5 daily to protect the lives and property of the citizens of this
6 Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, Changes in society and in the environment have
8 increased the dangers these individuals face daily in the
9 performance of their duties as protectors of the citizens and
10 property of this Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, The increased threat of terrorism, illicit drug labs
12 and hazardous material incidents have placed firefighters in
13 greater danger than ever before in the history of firefighting;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Although Pennsylvania has always depended heavily on
16 its firefighters, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001,
17 and the heightened awareness of future threats have only
18 increased their important role as first responders; and

19 WHEREAS, The time that firefighters devote to protecting the
20 lives and property of the citizens of this Commonwealth
21 represents time taken away from their family members; therefore
22 be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize and honor the bravery and
24 sacrifice of firefighters in this Commonwealth, extend thanks
25 for their service and, on the occasion of "International
26 Firefighters' Day," designate May 4, 2011, as "Firefighters'
27 Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That on this day all firefighters in this
29 Commonwealth be honored at the Capitol as a sign of gratitude
30 for their dedication, service and sacrifice, including the

1 giving of their lives, in order to protect the lives and
2 property of the citizens of this Commonwealth.