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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 435 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, DINNIMAN, FERLO, WOZNIAK, STACK,  
WASHINGTON, BREWSTER, ERICKSON, MENSCH, KASUNIC, FONTANA,  
TARTAGLIONE, SCHWANK, COSTA, GREENLEAF, SMITH, PILEGGI AND  
HUGHES, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the ideals of Peace Day, September 21, 2014.

2 WHEREAS, The ideal of peace encompasses the deepest hopes of  
3 all peoples and remains humanity's guiding inspiration; and

4 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth was founded by William Penn on the  
5 principles of peace, freedom and equality; and

6 WHEREAS, The United Nations believes in this same vision and  
7 works to promote the ideals and principles of peace and human  
8 rights across the globe; and

9 WHEREAS, The United Nations International Day of Peace,  
10 established in 1981, offers an annual opportunity on September  
11 21 for countries, cities, states, communities and individuals to  
12 "commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace within and among  
13 all nations and peoples"; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2001, the United Nations unanimously established  
15 the United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21 to  
16 be observed each year in promotion of global ceasefire and

1 nonviolence; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2009, the United States Senate passed S. Res. 274  
3 (2009), a resolution expressing its support for the goals and  
4 ideals celebrated on Peace Day and for "continuing efforts to  
5 raise global awareness of the goals of Peace Day and to engage  
6 all sectors of society in the peaceful observance of the  
7 International Day of Peace"; and

8 WHEREAS, On September 21, 2014, people in cities across the  
9 world come together through diverse peace education activities,  
10 nonviolent skill-building, music, marches, spiritual activities,  
11 arts projects, community events, environmental efforts and  
12 intercultural dialogues, all for the purpose of forwarding a  
13 culture of peace; and

14 WHEREAS, Peace Day observances are wide ranging, with many  
15 organizations and cities across this Commonwealth, from  
16 Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, creating practical acts of peace for  
17 our citizens to further understand and actively participate in a  
18 movement of nonviolence; and

19 WHEREAS, Peace Day Philly, a Philadelphia-region initiative  
20 that encourages broad-based participation in the International  
21 Day of Peace, calls upon all public officials, organizations,  
22 neighborhoods, community groups and individuals to actively  
23 engage in this global day of local opportunity. More than 30  
24 diverse peace-related events will take place across the region  
25 from September 15 through September 21. More than 25 additional  
26 peace activities are being planned by the Philadelphia Police  
27 Department in districts across Philadelphia; and

28 WHEREAS, On September 21 at 12 noon in all time zones, people  
29 of all nationalities and religions will observe a minute of  
30 silence for peace; and

1       WHEREAS, The United Nations' global theme for Peace Day 2014  
2 is "Right of Peoples to Peace." This theme relates to a United  
3 Nations Declaration that proclaims "the peoples of our planet  
4 have the sacred right to peace," and underscores the critical  
5 relationship between human rights and peace; and

6       WHEREAS, The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon  
7 reflected in his 100-day countdown statement: "History has shown  
8 that, no matter how fierce, conflict can end, peace can prevail  
9 and reconciliation can triumph. On 21 September...people will  
10 broadcast this essential message and will celebrate the value of  
11 human diversity and the strength of our unity"; and

12       WHEREAS, Conflict resolution and transformation, mediation,  
13 mindfulness training and many other skill-based aspects of peace  
14 education, as well as intercultural dialogue and other forms of  
15 diversity and global awareness activities, are critical to the  
16 development of peace-building skills and global citizenship  
17 among children and youth; therefore be it

18       RESOLVED, That the Senate express its support for the goals  
19 and ideals celebrated worldwide on September 21, 2014, and  
20 encourage and commend all citizens of this Commonwealth who  
21 actively promote and participate in diverse peace, nonviolence  
22 and unity-building activities in observance of the International  
23 Day of Peace.