

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 259 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY LEADBETER, STEHR, STENDER, OBERLANDER, PASHINSKI,
KINSEY, KAUFFMAN, HOHENSTEIN, BRENNAN, KHAN, MOUL, HADDOCK,
CURRY AND TWARDZIK, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 28, 2023, as "Knoebels Amusement Resort Day"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 1828, Reverend Hartman Henry Knoebel purchased a
4 plot of land in central Pennsylvania, then known as "Peggy's
5 Farm"; and

6 WHEREAS, This land was eventually passed down to his grandson
7 of the same name, who developed a lumbering and sawmill
8 business; and

9 WHEREAS, Roaring Creek runs through the center of the land
10 and drew the attention of local townsfolk looking for a place to
11 relax and cool off on hot summer days; and

12 WHEREAS, They enjoyed creek side picnics and jumping off the
13 covered bridge into the swimming hole below; and

14 WHEREAS, The swimming hole sparked an idea from Henry
15 Knoebel, and, in November 1925, he began construction on a large
16 pool in the same location where the Crystal Pool resides today;
17 and

WHEREAS, On July 4, 1926, Knoebels Amusement Resort
officially opened; and

WHEREAS, In the same year, Henry Knoebel also opened a
restaurant on the grounds and featured a steam-powered carousel
operated by Philadelphia businessman, Joe Gallagher; and

WHEREAS, In 1938, Knoebels Amusement Resort purchased the
carousel from the Gallagher family, but as Knoebels Amusement
Resort continued to grow, a larger carousel was needed; and

WHEREAS, George Kremer originally built Knoebels Amusement
Resort's Grand Carousel in 1913, and renowned craftsman, Charles
Carmel, carved the horses; and

WHEREAS, It was purchased from Riverview Park in Rahway, New
Jersey, in 1941; and

WHEREAS, With this acquisition came the addition of two
organs, and Knoebels Amusement Resort remains one of only a
handful of places where guests can still catch a brass ring and
earn a free ride on the carousel; and

WHEREAS, In 1960, Pete Knoebel purchased the Pioneer Train to
honor his late father; and

WHEREAS, Pete Knoebel purchased the small train to take
riders through the woodlands surrounding Knoebels Amusement
Resort from Allen Herschell Company's Miniature Train Division;
and

WHEREAS, The Pioneer Train's track stretches a pleasant one
and a half miles through the backwoods of the park, where riders
can observe many types of wildlife; and

WHEREAS, The forested beauty of Knoebels Amusement Resort
drew many families to the area and they built cottages along the
banks of Roaring Creek, some of which remain today; and

WHEREAS, Many others camped on Knoebels Amusement Resort's

1 grounds; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1963, Knoebels Amusement Resort introduced its
3 first six official campsites; and

4 WHEREAS, Since that time the campground has grown to more
5 than 550 sites and 57 log cabins; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1996, Knoebels Amusement Resort also acquired
7 nearby Lake Glory Campground; and

8 WHEREAS, Knoebels Amusement Resort has endured several
9 natural disasters, beginning with the devastating floods of
10 Hurricane Agnes in 1972; and

11 WHEREAS, Floodwaters reached 24 of the park's 25 rides, but
12 the park was operational only nine days later; and

13 WHEREAS, To celebrate the park's return, the Haunted Mansion
14 was designed and built by park staff and opened in 1973; and

15 WHEREAS, After celebrating Knoebels Amusement Resort's 50th
16 anniversary in 1976, the park introduced its first roller
17 coaster in 1977, the Jet Star; and

18 WHEREAS, The coaster was the first of its kind in this
19 Commonwealth, with a top speed of 40 miles per hour, and the
20 coaster thrilled riders through the 1992 season; and

21 WHEREAS, Knoebels Amusement Resort continued to grow and
22 expand, and, in 1980, it was the largest park without a major
23 wooden roller coaster, a distinction that ownership wanted to
24 change; and

25 WHEREAS, Originally built in 1947 for a park in San Antonio,
26 Texas, the Phoenix was, at the time, the largest roller coaster
27 to ever be moved from one park to another; and

28 WHEREAS, Despite much doubt that this venture would be
29 successful, the Phoenix opened in Knoebels Amusement Resort on
30 June 12, 1985, and to this day consistently places in the top 10

1 wooden coasters; and

2 WHEREAS, In the summer of 1990, Knoebels Amusement Resort
3 introduced its first water ride, the Giant Flume; and

4 WHEREAS, Honoring the natural beauty of the valley, the flume
5 was built to preserve as many trees as possible, providing
6 riders a quick way to cool off with a bit of shade and a
7 pleasant splash; and

8 WHEREAS, On September 7, 2011, Knoebels Amusement Resort
9 experienced another flood, which is marked as the worst in
10 Knoebels Amusement Resort's history; and

11 WHEREAS, Roaring Creek and Mugser Run rose several feet above
12 flood level, with damage far exceeding the flood of 1972; and

13 WHEREAS, Yet with the help of staff and the community, the
14 park was able to reopen a mere 10 days later; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2007, Knoebels Amusement Resort became an even
16 more complete resort with the addition of Jepko's Three Ponds
17 Golf Course; and

18 WHEREAS, This course was opened and had been operated by the
19 Jepko family since 1959; and

20 WHEREAS, This acquisition by the fourth-generation members of
21 the Knoebel family became official on January 16, 2007, and the
22 course was renamed Knoebels Three Ponds; and

23 WHEREAS, Knoebels Amusement Resort announced in 2013 that it
24 was adding the park's tallest ride; and

25 WHEREAS, Towering at 148 feet, the StratosFear stands well
26 above the park's former tallest feature, the Giant Wheel; and

27 WHEREAS, The 45-acre amusement resort has 64 rides, 28 games,
28 24 gift shops, 14 attractions, 2 arcades, 34 food and beverage
29 locations with full-service catering available, the 900,000-
30 gallon Crystal Pool and park mascots: Kozmo (a chipmunk), Dexter

1 (a raccoon), Piper (a red fox) and Kreeper (a Halloween
2 character); and

3 WHEREAS, Knoebels Amusement Resort is America's largest free-
4 admission amusement park and offers free parking, free
5 entertainment and free picnic facilities; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April
7 28, 2023, as "Knoebels Amusement Resort Day" in Pennsylvania.