

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, TWARDZIK AND ROWE, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 18, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 28, ~~2023~~ 2024, as "Knoebels Amusement Resort <--  
2 Day" 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;

1 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1       WHEREAS, Many others camped on Knoebels Amusement Resort's  
2 grounds; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29       WHEREAS, Despite much doubt that this venture would be  
30 successful, the Phoenix opened in Knoebels Amusement Resort on

1 June 12, 1985, and to this day consistently places in the top 10  
2 wooden coasters; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, The 45-acre amusement resort has 64 rides, 28 games,  
29 24 gift shops, 14 attractions, 2 arcades, 34 food and beverage  
30 locations with full-service catering available, the 900,000-

1 gallon Crystal Pool and park mascots: Kozmo (a chipmunk), Dexter  
2 (a raccoon), Piper (a red fox) and Creeper (a Halloween  
3 character); and

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

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April  
8 28, ~~2023~~ 2024, as "Knoebels Amusement Resort Day" in <--  
9 Pennsylvania.