

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 223 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, MARSHALL, VENKAT, KHAN, DONAHUE, HARKINS,
MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG, DELLOSO, KINSEY, JAMES, SANCHEZ,
HADDOCK, HILL-EVANS, KAUFFMAN, ROZZI, T. DAVIS, McNEILL,
GILLEN, MENTZER AND BELLMON, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2023 as "Agent Orange Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Vietnam War was the longest conflict in American
4 history in which the government of South Vietnam and its primary
5 ally, the United States, fought against the communist government
6 of North Vietnam and a South Vietnamese guerrilla force,
7 commonly known as the Viet Cong; and

8 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, American servicepersons
9 displayed heroic courage and determination under some of the
10 most difficult circumstances ever encountered in United States
11 military history; and

12 WHEREAS, Approximately 498,000 men and women from this
13 Commonwealth served during the Vietnam War era, an estimated
14 172,000 of whom directly participated in the war; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
16 Veterans Affairs, the United States military developed Agent

1 Orange and other herbicide combinations for use in combat
2 operations to remove trees and dense tropical foliage that
3 provided enemy cover; and

4 WHEREAS, The name Agent Orange comes from the orange
5 identifying stripes that were used on the 55-gallon drums in
6 which the herbicide was stored; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
8 Veterans Affairs, approximately 19 million gallons of Agent
9 Orange and other herbicides were used during the Vietnam War;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Thousands of Vietnam War veterans have died due to
12 the use of Agent Orange; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and
14 Federal law provide for the presumption that certain diseases
15 are a direct result of exposure to Agent Orange and other
16 herbicides used during the Vietnam War; and

17 WHEREAS, Thousands of veterans still suffer from cancer and
18 other health disorders caused by exposure to Agent Orange; and

19 WHEREAS, Veterans with health problems caused by Agent Orange
20 live with the knowledge that genetic damage resulting from their
21 exposure to Agent Orange may be handed down through generations;
22 therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
24 month of October 2023 as "Agent Orange Awareness Month" in
25 Pennsylvania.