

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 323 Session of
1994

INTRODUCED BY RUDY, GORDNER, YOUNGBLOOD, ROONEY, STEIL,
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PESCI, TRUE, BEBKO-JONES, KING, FARMER, STETLER, L. I. COHEN,
MILLER, LYNCH AND LAUB, MAY 18, 1994

ADOPTED, MAY 18, 1994

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of May 22 through 28, 1994, as "Senseless
2 Acts of Random Kindness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Children see thousands of random acts of senseless
4 violence yearly on television entertainment programs and in
5 movie theaters and learn from television and radio news programs
6 and newspapers of such incidents in their neighborhoods and
7 across the country; and

8 WHEREAS, Acts of violence in entertainment and news programs,
9 movies and throughout the media or in communities may
10 desensitize people, particularly children, to the pain,
11 suffering and consequences that ripple through society from
12 violence and may wrongly teach people, particularly children,
13 that violence is a means to settle conflict; and

14 WHEREAS, Drive-by shootings, random street murders, domestic
15 abuse and violent crime in this Commonwealth and across the
16 nation have made many people afraid to go out of their homes at

1 night, get to know their neighbors or get involved in community
2 problems; and

3 WHEREAS, Incidents are on the increase in this Commonwealth
4 in which students carry a gun to school for protection from
5 conflict; and

6 WHEREAS, Many people throughout this Commonwealth and nation
7 promote kindness through volunteer work in their communities,
8 schools and churches by helping men and women in need, thus
9 making the world a better place to live, work and raise a
10 family; and

11 WHEREAS, Promoting kindness, compassion, mutual respect,
12 understanding, diversity, negotiation, conflict resolution and
13 good will can help stop violence; and

14 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth and the United States were
15 founded, in part, on the principles of mutual kindness, decency
16 and respect for others; and

17 WHEREAS, A national trend to promote senseless acts of random
18 kindness, good will, mutual respect and dignity has grown from a
19 class assignment that a professor at Bakersfield College in
20 California gave to his students; and

21 WHEREAS, The assignment to commit one senseless act of random
22 kindness, such as giving up a parking space in a busy mall,
23 volunteering at a church or helping the Salvation Army taught
24 the students that being kind to one's fellow men and women in
25 turn promotes kindness, decency, good will and a true sense of
26 satisfaction; and

27 WHEREAS, The lessons that the students learned quickly
28 reached millions of people around the world, thanks to stories
29 about their experiences that appeared in newspapers and
30 magazines and on television programs like the Oprah Winfrey

1 Show, The Crusaders and Primetime Live, prompting other groups
2 to copy the idea; and

3 WHEREAS, The professor, Dr. Charles Wall, has worked to
4 persuade Congress, State legislatures and local governments to
5 designate "Senseless Acts of Random Kindness Week" to promote
6 the idea of mutual respect and dignity in order to get adults,
7 teenagers and children to discuss the values of respect and to
8 learn how to solve their differences peacefully; and

9 WHEREAS, Schools as well as various groups and individuals in
10 this Commonwealth can easily organize senseless acts of random
11 kindness programs in their communities to encourage residents to
12 take the time to get to know each other, organize and work
13 together to take back their neighborhoods and change the
14 emphasis in society from violence to kindness; and

15 WHEREAS, Similar campaigns such as "Just Say No" focused
16 attention on the problems of drug use among teenagers and
17 children in society and promoted similar efforts at drug abuse
18 prevention; and

19 WHEREAS, Focusing attention on such efforts can promote
20 kindness, understanding and mutual respect throughout this
21 Commonwealth and defeat the fear that stops people from getting
22 involved; and

23 WHEREAS, Defeating that fear can serve as the best antidote
24 against violence; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
26 week of May 22 through 28, 1994, as "Senseless Acts of Random
27 Kindness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge residents to
29 commit at least one senseless act of random kindness every day;
30 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives individually give
2 special recognition in their districts to constituents who have
3 committed special senseless acts of random kindness or make
4 other efforts to bring attention to the need for mutual respect,
5 dignity and care for our fellow men, women and our communities;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Governor
8 and the Secretary of Education to issue special proclamations
9 designating May 22 through 28, 1994, as "Senseless Acts of
10 Random Kindness Week" and to give special recognition to any
11 deserving individuals who have committed senseless acts of
12 random kindness.