

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 517 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, HUTCHINSON, McCALL, ADOLPH, BAKER, BEAR, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BISHOP, BOYD, BRENNAN, BROOKS, BUXTON, CAUSER, CLYMER, COX, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DALLY, DAY, DELOZIER, DENLINGER, DePASQUALE, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, DRUCKER, ELLIS, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FARRY, FLECK, GABIG, GABLER, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HARHART, HARPER, HARRIS, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, KAUFFMAN, KESSLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KRIEGER, LEVDANSKY, LONGIETTI, MAHER, MAJOR, MARKOSEK, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MELIO, METCALFE, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PEIFER, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PRESTON, QUINN, RAPP, REED, REESE, REICHLEY, ROAE, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROHRER, ROSS, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SIPTROTH, S. H. SMITH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STERN, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, R. TAYLOR, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON AND YUDICHAK, OCTOBER 29, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER 29, 2009

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Specialist Ross A. McGinnis, recipient  
2 of the Medal of Honor.

3 WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor, is  
4 bestowed upon members of the United States Armed Forces who have  
5 distinguished themselves above and beyond the call of duty; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 3,464 individuals have been awarded  
7 the Medal of Honor since the Civil War; and

8 WHEREAS, Only 378 Pennsylvanians have received the Medal of  
9 Honor and, under Pennsylvania law, have been remembered with a

commemorative marker in Soldiers' Grove; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Ross A. McGinnis, an honorable and distinguished Pennsylvanian from Clarion County, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for valor on June 2, 2008, in addition to receiving numerous other meritorious awards during his extraordinary military career; and

WHEREAS, PFC McGinnis entered into military service June 14, 2004, and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany; and

WHEREAS, PFC McGinnis served as an M2 .50-caliber machine gunner with the 1st Platoon, C Company, in connection with combat operations against an armed enemy in Adhamiyah, Northeast Baghdad, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, While the platoon was conducting combat control operations in an effort to reduce and control sectarian violence in the area, a fragmentation grenade thrown by an insurgent fell through the gunner's hatch into PFC McGinnis's Humvee vehicle; and

WHEREAS, PFC McGinnis was mortally wounded on December 4, 2006, while he pinned the live grenade between his body and the vehicle, absorbing most of the explosion and saving the lives of at least four other soldiers; and

WHEREAS, PFC McGinnis was nominated by his commanders for the Medal of Honor and posthumously promoted to Specialist; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize that without Specialist McGinnis's courage, selfless sacrifice and profound concern for the welfare of his fellow soldiers, the loss of life in his unit would have been significantly greater;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor Specialist  
3 McGinnis's conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism at  
4 the cost of his own life and above the call of duty; and be it  
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives duly recognize  
7 Specialist McGinnis's heroism and sacrifice, in keeping with the  
8 highest tradition of the United States Army; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives pay tribute to  
10 Specialist Ross A. McGinnis, recipient of the Medal of Honor,  
11 for his brave actions in combat in 2006, who is officially  
12 granted his rightful place of honor in the Medal of Honor  
13 Memorial at Soldiers' Grove on the grounds of the State Capitol  
14 of this Commonwealth; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
16 the family of Specialist Ross A. McGinnis.