

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 351 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, D. COSTA, GOODMAN, WHEATLEY, ENGLISH, BARRAR, HARPER, MAHER, GROVE, SAINATO, DiGIROLAMO, McNEILL, DUSH, SACCONI, DeLUCA, KIRKLAND, BENNINGHOFF, BROWNLEE, BAKER, DONATUCCI, VEREB, DAVIS, HENNESSEY, DRISCOLL, ELLIS, KOTIK, SONNEY, MILLARD, KNOWLES, COX, LONGIETTI, FARINA, BIZZARRO, THOMAS, A. HARRIS, P. DALEY, CALTAGIRONE, HARHART, MAHONEY, BOBACK, MARSHALL, GIBBONS, P. COSTA, MATZIE, PICKETT, HAHN, WHEELAND, MURT, TALLMAN, GINGRICH, COHEN, KINSEY, ROSS, PASHINSKI, O'NEILL, ROEBUCK, PAYNE, KRIEGER, STAATS, JAMES, JOZWIAK AND MAJOR, MAY 28, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 28, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and expressing condolences upon the death of
2 United States Marine Corps Sergeant John McLaughlin.

3 WHEREAS, United States Marine Corps Sergeant John McLaughlin
4 was born December 15, 1930, in Pittsburgh to Michael and Mary
5 Connolly McLaughlin; and

6 WHEREAS, Sergeant John McLaughlin was a lifelong resident of
7 the Duquesne Heights section of Pittsburgh where he attended St.
8 Mary's of the Mount and Allegheny High School; and

9 WHEREAS, Sergeant McLaughlin enlisted in the United States
10 Marine Corps to fight in Korea and was a member of Company D,
11 32nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division; and

12 WHEREAS, The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, one of the most
13 significant battles in United States Marine Corps history, was a

1 brutal 17-day battle in freezing weather lasting from November
2 27, 1950, until December 13, 1950, when 30,000 United Nations
3 Troops, mostly United States Marines, nicknamed "The Frozen
4 Chosin," were encircled by 67,000 People's Republic of China and
5 People's Volunteer Army 9th Army troops; and

6 WHEREAS, During the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, Sergeant
7 McLaughlin was a rifle squad leader when his company was
8 deployed in defensive positions on a snow-covered mountain in
9 subzero temperatures near Haguru-ri, Korea; and

10 WHEREAS, Sergeant McLaughlin exposed himself to heavy enemy
11 machine gun and grenade fire to move among his squad's positions
12 to ensure that the defenses were adequate and to give aid and
13 encouragement to his men; and

14 WHEREAS, Sergeant McLaughlin died at the age of 19 on
15 December 7, 1950, at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir; and

16 WHEREAS, Sergeant McLaughlin was posthumously awarded the
17 Bronze Star with Combat V for recognition of his courage and
18 inspiration during the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir; and

19 WHEREAS, Sergeant McLaughlin was also awarded the Korean
20 Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Purple Heart with
21 Gold Star, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation,
22 Republic of Korea War Service Medal and the United Nations
23 Service Medal; and

24 WHEREAS, Sergeant McLaughlin was originally buried in a mass
25 grave on the battlefield; and

26 WHEREAS, Sergeant McLaughlin was part of an exchange of war
27 dead with North Korea and returned to the United States, being
28 buried as an unknown soldier at the National Memorial Cemetery
29 of the Pacific in Hawaii for 58 years; and

30 WHEREAS, Sergeant McLaughlin's remains were identified due to

1 the ongoing efforts of the Korean War Project; and

2 WHEREAS, The Korean War Project has utilized DNA samples from
3 families to identify the remains of service personnel who would
4 otherwise remain unknown; and

5 WHEREAS, After six decades, Sergeant McLaughlin was returned
6 to Pittsburgh in April 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, Sergeant McLaughlin is an example of the
8 determination and resolve of our Commonwealth and our country to
9 identify and return our brave souls who serve and protect our
10 freedoms, standing by the American military motto dating back to
11 1756, "Leave No Man Behind"; and

12 WHEREAS, Sergeant McLaughlin gave the ultimate sacrifice to
13 his Commonwealth and his country and has returned to the
14 Keystone State to rest with his family; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
16 and extend condolences to the family of United States Marine
17 Corps Sergeant John McLaughlin, who is remembered and respected
18 for his service and heroism; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
20 the family of Sergeant John McLaughlin at his internment with
21 full military honors in Pittsburgh on June 6, 2015.