
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 577 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY KIM, READSHAW, BENNINGHOFF, KIRKLAND, THOMAS,
YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE, V. BROWN, COHEN, HENNESSEY,
J. HARRIS, WARD, BAKER, DRISCOLL, DIGIROLAMO, SCHWEYER,
WHEELAND, VEREB, ROZZI, MILLARD, KINSEY, NEILSON, D. COSTA,
WATSON, PHILLIPS-HILL, COX, GROVE AND ROSS, NOVEMBER 9, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 9, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 150th anniversary of the closing of Camp Curtin
2 and recognizing the 25th anniversary of the formation of the
3 Camp Curtin Historical Society.

4 WHEREAS, When news of the bombardment and surrender of Fort
5 Sumter reached Washington on April 14, 1861, President Abraham
6 Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers; and

7 WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Curtin also made a plea to the
8 residents of Pennsylvania to volunteer to help preserve the
9 Union; and

10 WHEREAS, Almost immediately, men from throughout this
11 Commonwealth converged on Harrisburg to offer their services;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Governor Curtin instructed Brigadier General Edward
14 Williams of the State Militia to take control of the grounds of
15 the Dauphin County Agricultural Society, located in what was
16 then the northern outskirts of Harrisburg, to establish a

1 military camp; and

2 WHEREAS, The camp was originally going to be named Camp
3 Union, but when Major, later Brigadier General, Joseph Knipe
4 officially opened the camp on April 18, he proclaimed it to be
5 Camp Curtin; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 300,000 men passed through Camp Curtin,
7 making it the largest Federal camp during the Civil War, with
8 troops from Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York,
9 Ohio, Wisconsin and the regular army using the camp; and

10 WHEREAS, Harrisburg's strategic importance as the State
11 capital, military camp and railroad center was made evident by
12 the Confederacy's attempts to take the city during the Antietam
13 and Gettysburg campaigns; and

14 WHEREAS, At the end of the war, Camp Curtin was used as a
15 mustering-out point for thousands of troops on their way home;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Camp Curtin was officially closed 150 years ago, in
18 1865, on November 11, the same date that would become Veterans
19 Day after World War I; and

20 WHEREAS, For years, residents of the area and Civil War
21 veterans wanted a gateway built at the intersection of Sixth and
22 Maclay Streets to mark the entrance to Camp Curtin; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1917, the Camp Curtin Commission was created; and

24 WHEREAS, A total of \$25,000 was appropriated in 1917 and 1919
25 to the commission to purchase the site occupied by Camp Curtin
26 and to erect a suitable memorial; and

27 WHEREAS, On October 19, 1922, the Governor Andrew G. Curtin
28 statue was unveiled by his son, William W. Curtin, and Laura and
29 Helen Gastrock, great-granddaughters of General Joseph F. Knipe;
30 and

1 WHEREAS, After years of neglect, the statue was restored and
2 rededicated by the newly founded Camp Curtin Historical Society
3 on November 11, 1990, the 125th anniversary of the closing of
4 Camp Curtin; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1992, a State roadside historical marker was
6 dedicated during ceremonies celebrating the 131st anniversary of
7 the opening of Camp Curtin; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1993, lighting was installed to illuminate the
9 statue through the efforts of the Camp Curtin Historical
10 Society; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
12 150th anniversary of the closing of Camp Curtin, the first and
13 largest Union training camp during the Civil War, and recognize
14 the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Camp Curtin
15 Historical Society.