

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1018 Session of
2018

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LONGIETTI AND DALEY, JULY 23, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JULY 23, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the successful international effort to rescue the Wild
2 Boars soccer team members and their assistant coach from the
3 flooded Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Thailand.

4 WHEREAS, On June 23, 2018, 12 members of the Wild Boars youth
5 soccer team and their assistant coach were having a picnic to
6 celebrate a team member's 17th birthday when they decided to
7 explore the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Thailand's Chiang Rai
8 Province; and

9 WHEREAS, Shortly after they entered the cave, the group was
10 forced to travel farther than expected due to heavy rains and
11 sudden flooding; and

12 WHEREAS, A park ranger noticed the group's belongings outside
13 the cave, and a national rescue effort began shortly thereafter
14 with Thai Navy SEALs diving through the murky waters of the
15 cave; and

16 WHEREAS, By June 27, the Thai Navy SEALs were joined by

1 members of the United States Indo-Pacific Command and British
2 cave diving experts who brought specialized equipment for the
3 treacherous rescue mission; and

4 WHEREAS, The 12 teenage boys and their assistant coach were
5 finally found alive on July 2, 2018, two miles from the cave
6 entrance and more than a week after they had become stranded;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The joy of the discovery quickly turned to a
9 desperate search for a plan to get the group of 13 out of the
10 cave; and

11 WHEREAS, Despite efforts to find an alternative entrance,
12 make an artificial entrance or drain the water, worsening rain
13 and decreasing oxygen levels made it clear that the group would
14 only be rescued by going out the way they had entered the cave;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The pathway from the entrance to the cave to where
17 the group was located took six hours for even very experienced
18 divers, and the return trip took five hours; and

19 WHEREAS, The teammates and assistant coach would need to be
20 taught not only how to dive but also how to swim; and

21 WHEREAS, On July 6, Saman Kunan, a former Thai Navy SEAL,
22 lost his life when he ran out of oxygen in a narrow underwater
23 passage while returning from a supply trip; and

24 WHEREAS, On July 8, with deteriorating conditions, divers
25 began to extract the group, with two divers swimming with each
26 individual, using a rope to guide each individual; and

27 WHEREAS, On the first day, the strongest four boys were
28 brought out of the cave alive and taken to the hospital, where
29 they were carefully examined and prepared for an eventual return
30 to normal life; and

1 WHEREAS, On July 9, four more boys were rescued and reunited
2 with the other four teammates at the hospital; and

3 WHEREAS, On July 10, the final four boys and the assistant
4 coach were pulled from the cave and taken to the hospital, and
5 all members of the rescue effort had successfully exited the
6 cave; and

7 WHEREAS, All members of the group were recovering well and in
8 good spirits after their long ordeal; and

9 WHEREAS, Though the boys were quick to request their favorite
10 meals upon arrival at the hospital, these requests were denied
11 due to the prolonged time the group had gone without food; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States contributed to the effort, with 36
13 Pacific Command personnel, including 12 search-and-rescue
14 divers, as well as staff from the United States Embassy; and

15 WHEREAS, The rescue is an inspiring example of what can be
16 accomplished through international cooperation, and the
17 international community will not forget the sacrifices made
18 during this effort; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
20 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania honor the successful international
21 effort to rescue the Wild Boars soccer team members and their
22 assistant coach from the flooded Tham Luang Nang Non cave in
23 Thailand.