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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 172 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY STEFANO, JULY 26, 2017

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JULY 26, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of July 22 through 29, 2017, as "Nine for  
2 Nine Fifteenth Anniversary Remembrance Week" in Pennsylvania,  
3 commemorating the 15th anniversary of the heroic and  
4 unyielding efforts of those persons involved in the rescue of  
5 the nine coal miners trapped in the Quecreek coal mine,  
6 Somerset County, from July 24 through 28, 2002.

7 WHEREAS, A near tragedy of epic proportions began at the  
8 Black Wolf Mining Company's Quecreek coal mine on July 24, 2002,  
9 when nine miners became trapped 240 feet below the surface of  
10 the mine entrance; and

11 WHEREAS, Due to the actions of the nine trapped miners, a  
12 greater potential tragedy was averted when an urgent radio  
13 warning was sent by the trapped miners to another crew who were  
14 able to escape from icy flood waters; and

15 WHEREAS, As days passed and the danger of the situation  
16 became more and more evident, many heroic people devoted  
17 limitless hours to saving the nine trapped miners and were  
18 unyielding to the possibility that their efforts might be in  
19 vain; and

20 WHEREAS, The true heroes of the event, the nine trapped

1 miners, demonstrated exceptional faith, endurance and raw  
2 courage: Randy Fogle of Garrett, Thomas Foy of Berlin, Dennis  
3 Hall of Johnstown, Ronald Hileman of Gray, Harry Mayhugh of  
4 Meyersdale, John Phillippi of Boswell, Mark Popernack of  
5 Somerset, Robert Pugh of Boswell and John Unger of Hollsopple;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Other true heroes included former Governor Mark S.  
8 Schweiker and the leadership team he assembled, along with the  
9 many fire companies and volunteer rescue workers of Somerset  
10 County; and

11 WHEREAS, The miracle which occurred at the Quecreek coal mine  
12 is that all nine miners survived the ordeal, thereby originating  
13 the "nine for nine" legacy while affirming the efforts of the  
14 many people who were involved in the rescue and enriching the  
15 spirit of our nation and the faith of its people; therefore be  
16 it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of July 22  
18 through 29, 2017, as "Nine for Nine Fifteenth Anniversary  
19 Remembrance Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate commemorate the heroism shown by  
21 former Governor Mark S. Schweiker, his leadership team, the fire  
22 company and volunteer rescue workers and coal miners Randy  
23 Fogle, Thomas Foy, Dennis Hall, Ronald Hileman, Harry Mayhugh,  
24 John Phillippi, Mark Popernack, Robert Pugh and John Unger on  
25 those inspiring days of July 24 through 28, 2002.