

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2100 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, SCHMITT, QUINN, KOSIEROWSKI, PICKETT, THOMAS, MILLARD, MURT, HILL-EVANS, GROVE, KORTZ, DIGIROLAMO, RYAN, ROTHMAN, JAMES, BROOKS, POLINCHOCK, SONNEY, SCHLOSSBERG, JOHNSON-HARRELL, BURNS, ROWE, CALTAGIRONE, COX, SAYLOR, FREEMAN, PASHINSKI, DeLUCA, MACKENZIE, SAINATO, DUSH, SCHWEYER, METCALFE, KAUFER, MENTZER, MOUL, BERNSTINE, EVERETT, YOUNGBLOOD, WILLIAMS, HENNESSEY, HOHENSTEIN, GILLEN AND FARRY, DECEMBER 2, 2019

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

AN ACT

1 Designating September 11 of each year as "September 11th
2 Remembrance Day" in this Commonwealth; ~~and~~ providing for the <--
3 observance of "September 11th Remembrance Day" in public
4 school entities and during public meetings- ; AND PROVIDING <--
5 FOR VETERAN RECOGNITION.

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2 SECTION 701. EFFECTIVE DATE.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 CHAPTER 1 <--

6 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

7 Section 1 101. Short title. <--

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the September
9 11th Remembrance Day AND VETERAN RECOGNITION Act. <--

10 CHAPTER 3 <--

11 SEPTEMBER 11TH REMEMBRANCE DAY

12 Section 2 301. Definitions. <--

13 The following words and phrases when used in this ~~act~~ CHAPTER <--
14 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
15 context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "Public meeting." Any meeting open to the public under 65
17 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings).

18 "Public school entity." Any public school, charter school,
19 regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit
20 or area vocational-technical school.

21 Section 3 302. Designation. <--

22 September 11 of each year is designated as "September 11th
23 Remembrance Day" in this Commonwealth.

24 Section 4 303. Observance. <--

25 "September 11th Remembrance Day" shall be observed on
26 September 11 of each year in every public school entity and
27 during every public meeting by a brief period of silence to
28 remember the victims of the terrorist attacks that occurred on
29 September 11, 2001.

30 CHAPTER 5 <--

VETERAN RECOGNITION

SECTION 501. SCOPE OF CHAPTER.

THIS CHAPTER RECOGNIZES THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM THIS COMMONWEALTH IN MAJOR CONFLICTS SINCE THE VIETNAM WAR.

SECTION 502. PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS DAY.

(A) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.--THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

(1) ON AUGUST 2, 1990, SADDAM HUSSEIN ORDERED IRAQI TROOPS TO INVADE AND OCCUPY THE SOVEREIGN NATION OF KUWAIT.

(2) THE UNITED STATES LED AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION DEMANDING SADDAM HUSSEIN TO WITHDRAW IRAQI FORCES FROM KUWAIT BY JANUARY 15, 1991.

(3) AFTER IRAQ FAILED TO MEET THE DEADLINE, PASSED BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, PRESIDENT GEORGE H. W. BUSH, ON JANUARY 16, 1991, ORDERED UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES TO BEGIN "OPERATION DESERT STORM."

(4) ON JANUARY 17, 750,000 COALITION FORCES FROM 36 NATIONS, INCLUDING 540,000 UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, BEGAN THE BATTLE TO LIBERATE KUWAIT FROM OCCUPATION.

(5) AFTER AN INTENSIVE AIR CAMPAIGN, COALITION FORCES LIBERATED KUWAIT CITY ON FEBRUARY 28, 1991.

(6) ON MARCH 6, AFTER NEGOTIATING A CEASE-FIRE, PRESIDENT BUSH ANNOUNCED THE END OF COMBAT OPERATIONS.

(7) BY THE END OF THE CONFLICT, 200 UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES MEMBERS WERE KILLED, INCLUDING 29 FROM THIS COMMONWEALTH.

(8) THE BRAVERY OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND THEIR ALLIES SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED FOR THE LIBERATION OF KUWAIT AND RESTORATION OF KUWAIT'S SOVEREIGNTY AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION.

1 (B) DESIGNATION.--MARCH 6 OF EACH YEAR IS DESIGNATED AS
2 "PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS DAY."

3 (C) PROCLAMATION.--THE GOVERNOR SHALL ISSUE ANNUALLY A
4 PROCLAMATION ENCOURAGING ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL
5 INSTITUTIONS TO OBSERVE "PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS DAY" AND TO
6 CONDUCT EXERCISES RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL THOSE
7 INVOLVED IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR AND REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES
8 THEY MADE FOR THEIR COUNTRY. THE PROCLAMATION MAY NOT MANDATE A
9 PUBLIC SCHOOL OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
10 OBSERVANCE.

11 § 503. GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM VETERANS DAY.

12 (A) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.--THE GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

14 (1) THE CAMPAIGN IN AFGHANISTAN, WHICH IS AMERICA'S
15 LONGEST CONFLICT, BEGAN IN 2001 AND CONTINUES TO THIS DAY.

16 (2) FOLLOWING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON SEPTEMBER 11,
17 2001, THE UNITED STATES DEMANDED THAT THE TALIBAN REGIME STOP
18 HARBORING AL QAEDA, THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE
19 FOR THE 9/11 ATTACKS, AND HAND OVER THE AL QAEDA LEADER OSAMA
20 BIN LADEN.

21 (3) PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH ORDERED UNITED STATES ARMED
22 FORCES TO BEGIN "OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM" (OEF) TO COMBAT
23 TERRORISM IN AFGHANISTAN AND CONFRONT AL QAEDA.

24 (4) UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FIRST ENTERED AFGHANISTAN
25 AND BEGAN COMBAT OPERATIONS ON OCTOBER 7, 2001.

26 (5) ON MAY 2, 2011, OSAMA BIN LADEN WAS KILLED DURING
27 THE FIGHTING AFTER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ORDERED NAVY SEALS
28 TO RAID OSAMA BIN LADEN'S COMPOUND.

29 (6) ON DECEMBER 31, 2014, THE UNITED STATES AND THE
30 NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) COMBAT OPERATIONS

1 IN AFGHANISTAN OFFICIALLY ENDED.

2 (7) SINCE THE BEGINNING OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM,
3 OVER 830,000 AMERICANS, INCLUDING 18,000 FROM THIS
4 COMMONWEALTH, HAVE SERVED IN AFGHANISTAN.

5 (8) MORE THAN 2,000 MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED
6 FORCES, INCLUDING 98 FROM THIS COMMONWEALTH, WERE KILLED IN
7 ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN SINCE COMBAT BEGAN.

8 (9) MORE THAN 19,000 MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED
9 FORCES WERE WOUNDED IN SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY DURING
10 OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

11 (10) WHEN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM ENDED, THE UNITED
12 STATES BEGAN A NEW PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN NAMED OPERATION
13 FREEDOM'S SENTINEL (OFS).

14 (11) UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY TO
15 PARTICIPATE IN A COALITION MISSION TO TRAIN, ADVISE AND
16 ASSIST AFGHAN NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY FORCES AND TO
17 CONDUCT COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS AGAINST THE REMNANTS OF
18 AL QAEDA.

19 (12) DURING OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL MORE THAN 70
20 AMERICANS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES AND ANOTHER 453 HAVE BEEN
21 WOUNDED IN ACTION.

22 (13) ON MARCH 19, 2003, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
23 ANNOUNCED THE BEGINNING OF COMBAT OPERATIONS IN IRAQ AFTER
24 SADDAM HUSSEIN FAILED TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE UNITED
25 STATES.

26 (14) "OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM" LASTED FOR MORE THAN
27 SEVEN YEARS, REDUCING THE INFLUENCE OF INSURGENTS, STOPPING
28 SECTARIAN VIOLENCE, ASSISTING IN TRAINING THE IRAQ SECURITY
29 FORCES AND PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF IRAQ'S CONSTITUTION
30 AND ELECTIONS.

1 (15) MAJOR UNITED STATES COMBAT OPERATIONS ENDED ON
2 SEPTEMBER 1, 2010. AMERICAN TROOPS REMAINED IN THE COUNTRY TO
3 ADVISE IRAQI SECURITY FORCES AS PART OF "OPERATION NEW DAWN"
4 UNTIL THE WITHDRAWAL ON DECEMBER 15, 2011.

5 (16) MORE THAN 4,000 MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED
6 FORCES LOST THEIR LIVES DURING "OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM" AND
7 "OPERATION NEW DAWN," INCLUDING 197 FROM THIS COMMONWEALTH,
8 AND MORE THAN 32,000 WERE WOUNDED.

9 (17) WITH THE RISE OF THE TERRORIST GROUP KNOWN AS THE
10 ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS), THE UNITED STATES
11 CREATED A NEW COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE IN 2014 DUBBED
12 "OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE."

13 (18) MARCH 23, 2019, MARKED THE END OF ISIS CONTROLLING
14 ANY PHYSICAL TERRITORY.

15 (19) UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES UNDER "OPERATION
16 INHERENT RESOLVE" CONTINUE TO WORK BY, WITH AND THROUGH LOCAL
17 PARTNERS TO DEFEAT THE FINAL ISIS FORCE AND STABILIZE THE
18 REGION.

19 (20) THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIS UNDER "OPERATION INHERENT
20 RESOLVE" HAS CLAIMED MORE THAN 80 AMERICAN LIVES, WITH
21 ANOTHER 80 WOUNDED IN ACTION.

22 (21) UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE SERVED
23 DOMESTICALLY SECURING KEY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT OVERSEAS
24 OPERATION.

25 (22) SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, MEMBERS OF THE UNITED
26 STATES MILITARY HAVE SERVED ON NEARLY EVERY CONTINENT
27 FIGHTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

28 (B) DESIGNATION.-- OCTOBER 7 OF EACH YEAR IS DESIGNATED AS
29 "GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM VETERANS DAY."

30 (C) PROCLAMATION.--THE GOVERNOR SHALL ISSUE ANNUALLY A

1 PROCLAMATION ENCOURAGING ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL
2 INSTITUTIONS TO OBSERVE "GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM VETERANS DAY"
3 AND TO CONDUCT EXERCISES RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL
4 THOSE INVOLVED IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM AND REMEMBERING
5 THE SACRIFICES THEY MADE FOR THEIR COUNTRY. THE PROCLAMATION MAY
6 NOT MANDATE A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION TO
7 PARTICIPATE IN THE OBSERVANCE.

8 CHAPTER 7

9 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

10 Section 5 701. Effective date.

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11 This act shall take effect in 60 days.