A RESOLUTION

Designating the year 2020 as "Frontline Workers Appreciation Year" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, The emergence of human-to-human transmission of the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, in late 2019 marked the beginning of an ongoing pandemic that poses a serious threat to the health and survival of communities all over the world, including here in this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Governor Wolf signed a declaration of emergency disaster on March 6, 2020, and ordered the closure of all non-life-sustaining businesses in Pennsylvania on March 19, 2020; and

WHEREAS, To protect critical infrastructure during a time of crisis, essential services are being maintained and operated by frontline workers so all Pennsylvanians have access to goods and
services that are imperative for basic survival; and
WHEREAS, Frontline workers in the areas of health care, grocery and food services, emergency medical services and public safety, funeral services and delivery and transportation services are taking necessary risks and committing themselves to provide essential services during a pandemic so that their actions may prevent unnecessary deaths; and
WHEREAS, Doctors, nurses and other health care workers continue to treat patients who have contracted COVID-19, or other medical conditions, all while at high-risk for exposure and through diminishing and insufficient medical supplies and resources so that sick individuals can receive life-saving care; and
WHEREAS, Grocery and food supply workers, including invaluable farm workers, continue to maintain the food supply chain despite low wages and going without proper access to protective gear so that Pennsylvanians can procure the necessary supplies to practice social distancing and quarantine in the safety of their own homes; and
WHEREAS, Emergency medical services providers and first responders are often the initial point-of-contact with sick and dying patients, enduring long shifts and acute stress on a daily basis, to ensure that calls for help do not go unanswered; and
WHEREAS, Funeral service providers offer a vital and often overlooked service that is an essential part of public health, especially during a pandemic or any mass-fatality disaster, practicing infection control to care for the remains of individuals who died of confirmed or suspected COVID-19; and
WHEREAS, Postal and delivery workers ensure that individuals and families practicing social distancing are able to receive
essential life-preserving items such as food and medicine, as well as helping businesses stay financially solvent; and

WHEREAS, Transportation workers have sustained public transit for essential workers and individuals in need of essential goods and services who do not otherwise have access to personal transport, all amid a lack of basic protections; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the professions mentioned, there are a multitude of frontline workers who continue to make sacrifices and who are critical to this Commonwealth's ability to persevere through this watershed moment in history, who have only recently begun to gain full appreciation but who have always deserved recognition and gratitude; and

WHEREAS, During this public health crisis, when the gravity of their presence as frontline workers has never been more evident, it is only right to advocate for their needs and safety by ensuring that they are provided proper protective equipment, hazard pay and fair labor practices; and

WHEREAS, Acknowledging that recognition and appreciation of frontline workers' contributions to this Commonwealth is only the first step in thanking our frontline workers for their sacrifices; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the year 2020 as "Frontline Workers Appreciation Year" in Pennsylvania.