A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2020 as "Agent Orange Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.
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4 WHEREAS, The Vietnam War was the longest conflict in American
5 history in which the government of South Vietnam and its primary
6 ally, the United States, fought against the communist government
7 of North Vietnam and a South Vietnamese guerrilla force,
8 commonly known as the Viet Cong; and
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10 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, American servicepersons
11 displayed heroic courage and determination under some of the
12 most difficult circumstances ever encountered in United States
13 military history; and
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15 WHEREAS, Approximately 498,000 men and women from this
16 Commonwealth served during the Vietnam War era, an estimated
17 172,000 of whom directly participated in the war; and
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19 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
Veterans Affairs, the United States military developed Agent Orange and other herbicide combinations for use in combat operations to remove trees and dense tropical foliage that provided enemy cover; and

WHEREAS, The name Agent Orange comes from the orange identifying stripes that were used on the 55-gallon drums in which the herbicide was stored; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, approximately 19 million gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides were used during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of Vietnam War veterans have died due to the use of Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and Federal law provide for the presumption that certain diseases are a direct result of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of veterans still suffer from cancer and other health disorders caused by exposure to Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, Veterans with health problems caused by Agent Orange live with the knowledge that genetic damage resulting from their exposure to Agent Orange may be handed down through generations;

therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of October 2020 as "Agent Orange Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.