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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1995 Session of  
2001

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INTRODUCED BY DALEY, RYAN, PERZEL, DeWEESE, BASTIAN, ARMSTRONG,  
M. BAKER, BARRAR, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BISHOP, BUXTON,  
CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CORRIGAN, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, EACHUS,  
D. EVANS, FAIRCHILD, FICHTER, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE,  
GORDNER, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARHART, HERMAN, JAMES, LAUGHLIN,  
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McGEEHAN, MELIO, MICHLOVIC, PALLONE, PETRONE, READSHAW,  
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WALKO, WATERS, C. WILLIAMS, J. WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI,  
M. WRIGHT, YUDICHAK, E. Z. TAYLOR, S. MILLER, CLARK, DAILEY,  
THOMAS, WILT, YOUNGBLOOD, BROWNE, FREEMAN, PISTELLA, HORSEY,  
SCHULER, COLEMAN, BELFANTI, KENNEY, STEELMAN, SCHRODER,  
DeLUCA, BENNINGHOFF, HESS, LUCYK, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, GABIG,  
EGOLF, MARSICO, ALLEN, FLICK, STURLA, ADOLPH, STEIL,  
M. COHEN, GRUITZA, DiGIROLAMO AND HABAY, OCTOBER 5, 2001

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 5, 2001

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the William Penn Liberty Medal of Honor; providing  
2 for awarding of medals, for an advisory board and for design  
3 and cost of medals.

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

6 Section 1. Establishment of medal.

7 The William Penn Liberty Medal of Honor is hereby established  
8 in commemoration of the idealism and struggle of William Penn in  
9 founding the Commonwealth.

10 Section 2. Awarding of medals.

11 (a) General rule.--The William Penn Liberty Medal of Honor

1 may be awarded annually by the Governor to native sons or  
2 daughters or residents of this Commonwealth who have  
3 distinguished themselves:

4 (1) Through a lifetime of great accomplishment.

5 (2) By an act or acts of great heroism.

6 (3) By a singular, outstanding contribution to this  
7 Commonwealth, the United States or the world.

8 The medal may also be awarded to persons not of this  
9 Commonwealth who have distinguished themselves as provided in  
10 this subsection in this Commonwealth or on behalf of the  
11 Commonwealth and its citizens.

12 (b) Roles of Governor, public and advisory board.--

13 (1) Medals may be awarded annually by the Governor,  
14 whose decision shall be final.

15 (2) Nominations for the medal may be made by the public  
16 to the advisory board, which shall advise the Governor on  
17 potential recipients and recommend recipients based on  
18 nominations received from the public or on their own  
19 knowledge.

20 Section 3. Advisory board.

21 (a) Membership.--The advisory board shall be comprised of  
22 the following:

23 (1) The Secretary of State, who shall chair the board.

24 (2) The Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of  
25 Representatives.

26 (3) The President pro tempore and Minority Leader of the  
27 Senate.

28 (4) Five residents of this Commonwealth selected by the  
29 Governor. These residents shall not hold State office or  
30 employment and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

1 (b) Meetings.--Meetings of the board and their

2 recommendations shall be confidential and not available for  
3 public inspection.

4 Section 4. Design of medal.

5 The advisory board shall oversee a competition for the design  
6 of the medal, which shall conclude no later than six months  
7 after enactment of this act.

8 Section 5. Cost of medals.

9 The cost for striking medals shall be borne by private  
10 contributions solicited by the Commonwealth and such other funds  
11 as the Governor may make available from moneys already  
12 appropriated for any purpose.

13 Section 6. Initial medals.

14 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 2(b), the first  
15 four medals shall be awarded in the names of Todd Beamer, Mark  
16 Bingham, Thomas Burnett and Jeremy Glick in recognition of their  
17 profound courage and outstanding heroism in knowingly  
18 sacrificing their lives in order to divert United Airlines  
19 Flight 93 from its terrorist mission on September 11, 2001. The  
20 medals shall be presented to their nearest of kin.

21 Section 7. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect in 60 days.