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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 511      Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY RAPP, FAIRCHILD, GRUCELA, DIGIROLAMO, CAUSER,  
BARRAR, BEAR, BEYER, BRENNAN, CLYMER, DONATUCCI, GEIST,  
GEORGE, HERSHEY, HORNAMAN, KAUFFMAN, KORTZ, MAJOR, MANTZ,  
MICOZZIE, MILLARD, R. MILLER, MOUL, MOYER, MUSTIO, NAILOR,  
O'NEILL, PAYNE, PICKETT, RAMALEY, READSHAW, SAYLOR, SIPTROTH,  
SONNEY, STERN, R. STEVENSON, J. TAYLOR, TRUE AND WATSON,  
NOVEMBER 19, 2007

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
NOVEMBER 19, 2007

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing December 2, 2007, as "The Order of the Silver Rose  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant, is a weapon of  
4 war deployed by the United States Armed Forces against the enemy  
5 during the Vietnam Conflict; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 22 million gallons of the chemical were  
7 sprayed by hand, aircraft and by the South Vietnamese during the  
8 war to defoliate areas of the jungle and to destroy crops; and

9 WHEREAS, Thousands of our own servicemen and women have  
10 become sick or have died since the end of the war as a result of  
11 exposure to Agent Orange dioxins; and

12 WHEREAS, Currently, thousands of Americans who served in  
13 Vietnam suffer from the effects of exposure to Agent Orange,  
14 which range from cancer to memory loss to Type II diabetes; and

15 WHEREAS, The Order of the Silver Rose strives to educate

1 Vietnam veterans of the many maladies associated with exposure  
2 to Agent Orange and to inform them that a simple yearly physical  
3 with CT scan and X-ray could easily save their lives by early  
4 detection and treatment of diseases resulting from exposure to  
5 Agent Orange; and

6 WHEREAS, These heroes have been sickened or, in many cases,  
7 have given their lives for the freedom of United States citizens  
8 and deserve recognition; and

9 WHEREAS, American soldiers exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam  
10 have received no medals or recognition for the injuries  
11 sustained from exposure to the chemical; and

12 WHEREAS, The Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit,  
13 commonly called the Purple Heart, is awarded to members of the  
14 armed forces of the United States who have been wounded or  
15 killed in battle; and

16 WHEREAS, The criteria for receiving the Purple Heart includes  
17 injury caused by chemical, biological or nuclear agents released  
18 by the enemy, and the medal can be awarded if the injury is the  
19 result of "friendly fire," designed to inflict damage or destroy  
20 enemy troops or equipment; and

21 WHEREAS, American soldiers suffering from the effects of  
22 exposure to Agent Orange from the Southeast Asia Theater of  
23 Operations should receive the Purple Heart in recognition of  
24 injuries sustained while standing in harm's way for their  
25 country; and

26 WHEREAS, The Order of the Silver Rose, an informal society,  
27 exists for the exclusive purpose of recognizing those United  
28 States military personnel exposed to and suffering from the  
29 effects of Agent Orange as being deserving of the Purple Heart;  
30 and

1       WHEREAS, The fact that the United States Government,  
2       especially the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,  
3       provides medical treatment and financial compensation to Vietnam  
4       veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange clearly demonstrates  
5       that it is an injury deserving of recognition; therefore be it  
6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
7       Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the courage, heroism and  
8       contributions of American service personnel found to have been  
9       exposed to Agent Orange dioxins and to chemical and biological  
10      exposures; and be it further  
11      RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the  
12      President of the United States to grant the Order of the Purple  
13      Heart to American soldiers who were injured from their exposure  
14      to Agent Orange during the Vietnam Conflict; and be it further  
15      RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize  
16      December 2, 2007, as "Order of the Silver Rose Day" in  
17      Pennsylvania; and be it further  
18      RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
19      Gary J. Chenett, who serves with distinction as the National  
20      Director of the Order of the Silver Rose; and be it further  
21      RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
22      the President of the United States.