

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 423 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY PALLONE, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, DENLINGER,
FAIRCHILD, GIBBONS, GODSHALL, HORNAMAN, KOTIK, KULA, MAHONEY,
MANN, MOUL, MURT, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH AND
WHITE, JULY 24, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JULY 24, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to enact House
2 Resolution No. 442, known as the Veterans' Heritage Firearms
3 Act of 2009.

4 WHEREAS, During World War II and the Korean War, many of our
5 military veterans acquired souvenir firearms when serving our
6 country overseas, which was a lawful practice at the time, and
7 many currently still own or possess these firearms; and

8 WHEREAS, Under current law, if these firearms are not
9 registered under the National Firearms Act in the central
10 registry known as the National Firearms Registration and
11 Transfer Record, the veteran or his family member who inherited
12 the firearm may be convicted of illegal possession of a firearm;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, It is senseless to prosecute the brave Americans who
15 selflessly served our country on foreign shores for keeping a
16 memento of their service or to prosecute their family members
17 for inheriting historical firearms; and

1 WHEREAS, To rectify this unjust situation, on January 9,
2 2009, House Resolution No. 442, known as the Veterans' Heritage
3 Firearms Act of 2009, was introduced during the 111th Congress
4 of the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 442 would establish a limited
6 90-day amnesty period during which veterans and their family
7 members could register war relic firearms acquired before
8 October 31, 1968, by an armed forces veteran while stationed
9 overseas without fear of prosecution; and

10 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 442 would also extend immunity
11 to a veteran or family member who attempts to register a
12 qualifying firearm outside of the amnesty period if that
13 individual surrenders the firearm within 30 days after being
14 notified of potential criminal liability for continued
15 possession; and

16 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 442 would also require the
17 Attorney General of the United States to transfer each firearm
18 qualifying as a curio or relic which has been forfeited to the
19 United States to the first qualified museum that requests it and
20 to catalog and publish information identifying each firearm
21 available for transfer; and

22 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 442 would prohibit the Attorney
23 General from destroying firearms that have been forfeited until
24 five years after the forfeiture; and

25 WHEREAS, It is altogether suitable and just to offer this
26 limited amnesty period to our deserving veterans who served our
27 country with honor and valor and who acquired their souvenir
28 firearms lawfully in the course of their military service and to
29 offer this amnesty to the family members of such veterans; and

30 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 442 is a positive and

1 reasonable proposal that would honor our military veterans with
2 an appropriate period of amnesty for registering their souvenir
3 firearms lawfully acquired during their active years of service;
4 therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
6 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
7 States to take immediate, favorable action upon House Resolution
8 No. 442, known as the Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act of 2009,
9 and enact this bill during the 111th Congress; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
11 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to the
12 Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland
13 Security of the House Judiciary Committee and to each member of
14 Congress from Pennsylvania.