

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 335 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY TALLMAN, PASHINSKI AND HELM, JUNE 8, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE 8,
2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of outstanding Pennsylvanian United States
2 Army Major General Gerald T. Sajer and extending condolences
3 to his family.

4 WHEREAS, United States Army Major General Gerald T. Sajer
5 died on May 14, 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, General Sajer was the Adjutant General of the
7 Pennsylvania National Guard from January 1987 through April
8 1995, and as Adjutant General, he was responsible for command,
9 control and supervision of 24,000 soldiers and airmen of the
10 Army and Air National Guard in units of this Commonwealth and
11 for providing trained and equipped units capable of performing
12 their war-time missions and for providing military support to
13 civil authorities in responding to man-made and natural
14 disasters; and

15 WHEREAS, General Sajer was born in Milton on April 12, 1928,
16 and received his secondary education and graduated from Girard
17 College, a school for orphan boys, in Philadelphia in 1946; and

18 WHEREAS, He received his bachelor's degree, summa cum laude,

1 from Tufts University in 1956 where he was selected for
2 membership in Phi Beta Kappa based on high academic standing and
3 received his law degree from Harvard University in 1959 and a
4 master's degree in public administration from Shippensburg
5 University in 1984; and

6 WHEREAS, General Sajer began his military career when he
7 enlisted in the Army as a rifleman in 1946, and, after basic
8 training, he was selected for the Officer Candidate School at
9 Fort Benning, Georgia, received his commission as a second
10 lieutenant in 1947 and attended the Engineer School at Fort
11 Belvoir, Virginia, where he completed the Engineer Associate
12 Officer Course in 1947; and

13 WHEREAS, General Sajer was assigned as a company officer in
14 engineer units in Korea and Japan from 1947 to 1950; and

15 WHEREAS, Following the outbreak of hostilities in Korea,
16 General Sajer attended Airborne School and Ranger Training at
17 Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1951 and served in Korea in 1952
18 through 1953 as a Ranger Captain in intelligence collection
19 activities in support of the Eighth United States Army; and

20 WHEREAS, After his service in Korea, General Sajer left
21 active duty to attend college and law school and transitioned
22 into the United States Army Reserve; and

23 WHEREAS, He subsequently joined the Army National Guard in
24 1959 as a captain in the 28th Infantry Division where he served
25 as the Assistant G3 Plans and Operations, division G3,
26 responsible for operational planning and execution and as Chief
27 of Staff, and in 1976, he was promoted to Brigadier General and
28 appointed as Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver) for the
29 28th Infantry Division; and

30 WHEREAS, He was appointed as Adjutant General of the

1 Commonwealth on January 20, 1987, by Governor Robert P. Casey
2 and promoted to Major General; and

3 WHEREAS, After Persian Gulf I, when Active, Guard and Reserve
4 units were being downsized, the Army proposed to cut the 15,000-
5 man 28th Infantry Division to a 3,500-man cadre, which General
6 Sajer vigorously opposed, successfully; and

7 WHEREAS, He then converted the 28th Infantry Division from a
8 light infantry to a modern heavy mechanized division,
9 accomplishing that transition within three years, and under
10 General Sajer's leadership, the Pennsylvania National Guard grew
11 to the greatest strength ever, 24,000, and was widely regarded
12 as the best Guard in the country; and

13 WHEREAS, While Adjutant General, General Sajer conceived and
14 constructed the first modern training buildings for the training
15 of officers and noncommissioned officers at Fort Indiantown Gap,
16 a \$30 million project, and during his tenure, the Pennsylvania
17 National Guard was allotted three-quarters of all of the
18 National Guard's construction money and actively constructed
19 armories, veterans' homes and other facilities throughout this
20 Commonwealth; and

21 WHEREAS, General Sajer was responsible for the enactment of
22 landmark legislation, including the Education Assistance
23 Program, which gave Guardsmen tuition moneys for enlisting, and,
24 with the outbreak of the Persian Gulf War, legislation to
25 modernize the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act to better protect
26 Guardsmen; and

27 WHEREAS, He created the legislation to construct the memorial
28 and amphitheater at the National Veterans Cemetery at Fort
29 Indiantown Gap and served as the Chairman of the Commissioning
30 Committee for the U.S.S. *Pennsylvania*, a Trident submarine; and

1 WHEREAS, General Sajer was active with the military abroad,
2 forming a training partnership with the First Panzer Division of
3 the German Army and assisting in the development of the
4 Lithuanian military forces; and

5 WHEREAS, General Sajer spearheaded a major environmental
6 cleanup initiative at Cressona, Schuylkill County, to eliminate
7 the issues caused by tens of thousands of burning tires, for
8 which he was honored at the White House by President George H.W.
9 Bush for community excellence service; and

10 WHEREAS, General Sajer initiated a modern family support
11 program for the Pennsylvania National Guard soldiers and their
12 families, including a day-care center, a summer camp, a day camp
13 and an emergency relief program; and

14 WHEREAS, General Sajer's awards and decorations include the
15 Distinguished Service Medal, Soldier's Medal, Legion of Merit,
16 Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, American
17 Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense
18 Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Army Forces Reserve Medal,
19 Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, United Nations
20 Service Medal, Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Medal - Second
21 Award, General Thomas J. Stewart Medal, Pennsylvania Service
22 Ribbon and Parachute and Ranger Tabs; and

23 WHEREAS, Prior to assuming his position as Adjutant General,
24 General Sajer was an attorney in private practice with Stone &
25 Sajer in New Cumberland, focusing on civil litigation; and

26 WHEREAS, General Sajer was a member of the Pennsylvania Bar
27 Association, Cumberland County Bar, Phi Beta Kappa (Tufts
28 Chapter), National Guard Association of the United States and
29 Pennsylvania, Association of the United States Army, 28th
30 Infantry Division Heritage Association and Veterans of Foreign

1 Wars, was a trustee of the Army War College Foundation and was a
2 member of the Boards of the First Regiment of Infantry
3 Association, of the Minuteman Institute of National Defense
4 Studies and Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church,
5 Abbottstown; and

6 WHEREAS, General Sajer retired from military service in March
7 1996; and

8 WHEREAS, After his retirement, General Sajer resumed the
9 practice of law and remained active in military affairs, he
10 wrote several award-winning articles on the National Guard of
11 the United States and was regarded as an expert in the planning
12 and response to catastrophic events and homeland security; and

13 WHEREAS, General Sajer is survived by his wife, the former
14 Helen Leskanich, his children Marsha, Mark, Susan, Scott, Frank
15 and Peter, and 15 grandchildren; and

16 WHEREAS, In final tribute to General Sajer, Admiral Joe
17 Sestak, a former Congressman and 2010 Candidate for the United
18 States Senate from Pennsylvania, said, "I have rarely met as
19 principled a person in my political life as he was"; therefore
20 be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life of
22 outstanding Pennsylvanian, United States Army Major General
23 Gerald T. Sajer; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That condolences be extended to his family; and be
25 it further

26 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Mrs.
27 Gerald T. Sajer, Hidden Horse Farm, 2665 Lake Meade Road, East
28 Berlin, PA 17316.