

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 415 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY MICCARELLI, JOSEPHS, BAKER, BOBACK, BRENNAN,
V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, COHEN, D. COSTA, CUTLER,
DALEY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, DIGIROLAMO, FABRIZIO, FLECK, GABLER,
GEORGE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, HAHN, HARHART, HARRIS, HENNESSEY,
KAUFFMAN, KILLION, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MANN, MARSHALL,
MARSICO, McGEEHAN, METCALFE, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MURT, MUSTIO,
O'NEILL, PAYTON, QUIGLEY, READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS, SAINATO,
SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, STEVENSON, SWANGER, VEREB, WATSON,
DAVIS, EVERETT, M. K. KELLER AND TALLMAN, SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 237th anniversary of the founding of the First
2 Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, also known as the "First
3 City Troop."

4 WHEREAS, The First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, also
5 known as the "First City Troop," founded in 1774, is a purely
6 volunteer cavalry troop and is a unit of the Pennsylvania Army
7 National Guard; and

8 WHEREAS, The First City Troop was organized as the Light
9 Horse of the City of Philadelphia, often referred to as the
10 Philadelphia Light Horse, and, as one of the first patriotic
11 military organizations established in the American Revolution,
12 it is the oldest continuously serving unit in the United States
13 military; and

14 WHEREAS, Early members came from a number of local social

1 organizations, including the Schuylkill Fishing Company, the
2 Schuylkill Company of Fort Saint Davids, the Saint Andrew's
3 Society of Philadelphia, the Society of the Friendly Sons of
4 Saint Patrick, the Society of the Sons of Saint George and
5 especially the Gloucester Fox Hunting Club; and

6 WHEREAS, The First City Troop draws its membership from Troop
7 A, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry, 28th Division, Pennsylvania Army
8 National Guard, a division which maintains a high state of
9 readiness to survive the pace and lethality that characterize
10 medium- and large-scale conflicts, and during peacetime,
11 division soldiers may be called by the Governor for emergency
12 situations; and

13 WHEREAS, During the American Revolution, the First City Troop
14 fought in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine and
15 Germantown and often served as George Washington's personal
16 bodyguard; and

17 WHEREAS, The unit also saved James Wilson at the "Battle of
18 Fort Wilson" riot; and

19 WHEREAS, During the Civil War, the First City Troop was
20 called into active duty several times, beginning with the 1861
21 campaign that led to the First Battle of Bull Run, and the
22 impact of its involvement was deep and far-reaching; and

23 WHEREAS, During the Gettysburg Campaign, the company, under
24 the command of future United States Speaker of the House Samuel
25 J. Randall, performed scouting duties around Gettysburg in late
26 June before fleeing to neighboring York County following a brief
27 skirmish on June 26, 1863, and it later helped defend the
28 Columbia-Wrightsville Bridge against the Confederate forces of
29 John Brown Gordon; and

30 WHEREAS, The men of First City Troop acquitted themselves

1 with honor, skill and courage throughout the Civil War and
2 provided the country a shining example of the role of the
3 citizen-soldier during one of the darkest periods in United
4 States history; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1902, the First City Troop answered the call of
6 the Governor and served in Luzerne County during the coal
7 strikes, and in 1936 it was called to active State duty to aid
8 in the recovery efforts following the Johnstown Flood; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1916, the First City Troop voted to expand the
10 size of the active roll and, along with the rest of the National
11 Guard, was nationalized and posted to Fort Bliss on the Mexico-
12 Texas border; and

13 WHEREAS, The First City Troop deployed to Europe and saw
14 action in the Argonne Forest as well as other locations during
15 World War I; and

16 WHEREAS, The First City Troop served two major missions
17 stateside during World War II, patrolling the Delaware River and
18 afterwards patrolling on the Pacific Coast, and in February
19 1945, the unit was dispatched to Europe, where it served in
20 Belgium and Germany; and

21 WHEREAS, During the Korean War the First City Troop was
22 posted to serve near Munich, the capital of Bavaria, Germany,
23 from 1951 to 1952; and

24 WHEREAS, Throughout the Vietnam conflict the First City Troop
25 reorganized and trained in several states outside of
26 Pennsylvania, and operations on the ceremonial and traditional
27 fronts continued at full pace; and

28 WHEREAS, September 11, 2001, changed the First City Troop as
29 it did the entire nation, and, finding itself in more demand to
30 serve the county, it quickened training and issued new equipment

1 so that by the spring of 2002 when orders were issued, the troop
2 was ready for mobilization along with other elements of the 28th
3 Infantry Division; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, the First City Troop continues to serve the
5 nation, deploying overseas with the Pennsylvania National Guard
6 in support of Army operations, and recent deployments have been
7 to Bosnia, Iraq and Egypt; and

8 WHEREAS, The First City Troop has assisted the citizens of
9 Pennsylvania during numerous natural disasters and State
10 emergencies; and

11 WHEREAS, Most members of the First City Troop would qualify
12 to be officers in other units but choose to serve as enlisted
13 men in the troop, and soldiers on the active roll continue to
14 donate their drill pay back to the unit in order to maintain a
15 tradition of voluntary service; and

16 WHEREAS, The First City Troop is the only military unit in
17 the United States that owns its own Armory building, built with
18 private funds in the Rittenhouse section of Philadelphia; and

19 WHEREAS, The citizen soldiers of the First City Troop have
20 served with courage and selflessness and have earned the respect
21 and gratitude of Pennsylvanians and all Americans; and

22 WHEREAS, The First City Troop continues to build on its
23 heritage as a reliable and relevant community-based force that
24 is always ready and always there, whether to protect our
25 homeland against attack, to observe traditional customs and
26 ceremonial duties, to support civil authorities or to defend
27 freedom overseas; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives:

29 (1) Proudly recognize the 237th anniversary of the
30 founding of the First City Troop and its exemplary service to

1 the Commonwealth and the nation.

2 (2) Thank the members of the First City Troop and their
3 families for their service and their sacrifice on behalf of
4 the Commonwealth and the nation.

5 (3) Pledge its continued support to the First City Troop
6 and offer best wishes for continued growth and exceptional
7 service in the years to come.

8 (4) Honor the dedication of the members of the First
9 City Troop who play a central role in protecting this
10 Commonwealth and the United States and the freedoms and
11 liberties of all citizens;

12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
14 the Governor, the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania and the
15 Captain of the First City Troop, Tyler Hathaway, First Troop
16 Philadelphia City Cavalry, The Armory, 22 South 23rd Street,
17 Philadelphia, PA 19103.