

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 142 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY LEACH, MAY 13, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 13, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and expressing condolences upon the passing of
2 Robert W. Edgar, former Pennsylvania congressman, who died on
3 April 23, 2013.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Robert W. Edgar was born in Philadelphia on May
5 29, 1943, and grew up in Springfield, Delaware County; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Edgar earned a bachelor of arts degree from
7 Lycoming College in Williamsport and a master of divinity degree
8 from Drew University Theological School in Madison, New Jersey;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 1974, Mr. Edgar was elected to the United States
11 House of Representatives to represent the 7th Congressional
12 District of Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia; and

13 WHEREAS, During his six terms in the United States House of
14 Representatives, Mr. Edgar led efforts to improve public
15 transportation, fought wasteful water projects and authored the
16 community right-to-know provision of the Superfund legislation,
17 among other things; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Edgar served on the House Select Committee on
19 Assassinations that investigated the deaths of President John F.

Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edgar also served on the Veterans Affairs Committee, working on readjustment counseling to treat post-traumatic stress disorder and treatment for Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, Mr. Edgar worked with the Ford Foundation to help the civilians in Vietnam affected by Agent Orange, especially the multitudes of children with genetic defects who have been abandoned and essentially warehoused in makeshift orphanages; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edgar sat on the boards of several organizations, including the National Coalition on Health Care, the Environment and Energy Study Institute, the National Foundation on Alternative Medicine, Drew University and the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, In May 2007, Mr. Edgar became the president and CEO of Common Cause; and

WHEREAS, Prior to assuming the leadership of Common Cause, Mr. Edgar served for seven years as secretary-general of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, the leading United States organization in the movement for Christian unity that advocates for progressive social policies and has a particular focus on eliminating poverty; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edgar also previously served as president of the Claremont School of Theology for ten years and as a part-time chaplain at the Federal penitentiary in Lewisburg; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edgar's wide-ranging career has also included pastorates at United Methodist congregations and stints as a teacher, college chaplain, community organizer and director of a think tank on national security issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edgar was the author of *Middle Church*, a call to

1 progressive people of faith to take back the moral high ground
2 from the extremists and make America a better and less divided
3 country; and

4 WHEREAS, As a minister at Drexel, Mr. Edgar founded the
5 People's Emergency Center, a nonprofit social services agency
6 for homeless families which includes a food kitchen and a center
7 to help people find jobs; and

8 WHEREAS, For his exemplary public service, Mr. Edgar received
9 five honorary doctoral degrees; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Edgar passed away on April 23, 2013, and is
11 survived by his wife of 48 years, Merle, and their sons, Andrew,
12 David and Rob and their families; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Edgar will be remembered and admired for his
14 deep commitment to social justice and strengthening our
15 democracy; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life and express
17 condolences upon the passing of Robert W. Edgar, former
18 Pennsylvania congressman, who died on April 23, 2013; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
21 the family of Mr. Edgar.