

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 667 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHREIBER, BOBACK, KIM, KOTIK, COHEN, MUSTIO,
READSHAW, DIGIROLAMO, ROZZI, JAMES, MILLARD, HENNESSEY,
VEREB, BARRAR, ENGLISH, ROTHMAN, HELM, GOODMAN, KINSEY,
V. BROWN, WHEELAND, MAHONEY, MARSICO, DRISCOLL, HARHART,
YOUNGBLOOD, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, McNEILL, NEILSON, BIZZARRO
AND WATSON, FEBRUARY 2, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 2, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 3, 2016, as "Four Chaplains Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On February 3, 1943, the USAT Dorchester was
4 crossing the North Atlantic in a convoy, transporting more than
5 900 troops to an American base in Greenland; and

6 WHEREAS, Four chaplains, the Reverend George Fox who was a
7 Methodist and a native of Lewistown, Rabbi Alexander Goode who
8 was Jewish and who served a congregation in York, the Reverend
9 Clark Poling who was part of the Reformed Church in America and
10 Father John Washington who was Roman Catholic, were aboard the
11 ship; and

12 WHEREAS, Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat's torpedo struck
13 the Dorchester, the explosion instantly knocking out power and
14 radio communication with escort ships; and

15 WHEREAS, Within 20 minutes, the Dorchester sank, leading to

1 more than 670 deaths; and

2 WHEREAS, In the confusion, the four chaplains calmed the men
3 and aided as many as they could; and

4 WHEREAS, When life vests ran out, each chaplain removed his
5 and gave it away so that another man would be saved; and

6 WHEREAS, As the ship sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm
7 and arm, praying; and

8 WHEREAS, Lieutenants Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were
9 posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the
10 Purple Heart; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1948, the Congress of the United States declared
12 February 3 to be "Four Chaplains Day"; and

13 WHEREAS, Congress authorized a one-time Chaplain's Medal for
14 Heroism on July 14, 1960; and

15 WHEREAS, A Chaplain's Medal for Heroism was presented to each
16 chaplain's next of kin on January 18, 1961; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
18 February 3, 2016, as "Four Chaplains Day" in Pennsylvania and
19 honor the valor and sacrifice of these men.