

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 31 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY KRUEGER-BRANEKY, NEILSON, SCHWEYER, ROEBUCK, SCHLOSSBERG, DEAN, SAMUELSON, KIM, CORBIN, SNYDER, HARPER, MADDEN, TOEPEL, KULIK, DIGIROLAMO, BOBACK, HAHN, BULLOCK, WARD, READSHAW, ROZZI, MURT, McCLINTON, FITZGERALD, BARBIN, DAVIS, KLUNK, FEE, R. BROWN, DRISCOLL, RAPP, PHILLIPS-HILL, CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, DONATUCCI, WATSON, D. COSTA, DeLISSIO, MARSICO, KINSEY, FREEMAN AND SOLOMON, JANUARY 23, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JANUARY 23, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the protests by the Silent
 2 Sentinels, whose nonviolent actions shifted the hearts and
 3 minds of American politicians and earned women across the
 4 nation the right to vote.

5 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States did not
 6 initially grant women equal voting rights; and

7 WHEREAS, After years of organizing parades and demonstrations
 8 to rally support for women's suffrage, the National Woman's
 9 Party began protesting in front of the White House on January
 10 10, 1917; and

11 WHEREAS, The women earned the name Silent Sentinels for their
 12 silent pickets carrying posters and signs urging President
 13 Woodrow Wilson to grant women voting rights; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the course of two and one-half years, nearly
 15 2,000 suffragists traveled from 30 states to walk the picket
 16 lines in front of the White House and congressional office

1 buildings and in nearby Lafayette Park; and

2 WHEREAS, One hundred sixty-eight women who were jailed for
3 protesting, assembling and speaking at rallies for women's
4 suffrage withstood deplorable prison conditions; and

5 WHEREAS, Some of these women participated in hunger strikes;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, More than a dozen women endured the "Night of
8 Terror" on November 15, 1917, during which the superintendent of
9 the Occoquan Workhouse directed guards to beat and brutalize the
10 jailed suffragists; and

11 WHEREAS, The Silent Sentinels continued pressuring Federal
12 lawmakers to approve a constitutional amendment granting women
13 the right to vote; and

14 WHEREAS, The 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United
15 States was approved by the Congress of the United States in 1919
16 and ratified by the last required state in August 1920;
17 therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
19 100th anniversary of the protests by the Silent Sentinels, whose
20 persistence and fortitude were indispensable in the fight to
21 secure the indelible right of women to vote.