
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 411 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, CALTAGIRONE, P. COSTA, READSHAW,
HENNESSEY, FREEMAN, GODSHALL, MILLARD, DAVIS, SOLOMON, REED,
D. COSTA, DUSH, SONNEY, MURT, WARD, BARBIN, MARSHALL, DeLUCA
AND NEILSON, JUNE 20, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 20, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of Henry L. Hillman and recognizing
2 his exemplary contributions to Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Henry L. Hillman, who transformed western
4 Pennsylvania through his leadership and philanthropy, died on
5 Friday, April 14, 2017, at 98 years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman, alongside his wife of more than 70
7 years, Elsie Hilliard Hillman, had an impact that went far
8 beyond financial, professional and political success; and

9 WHEREAS, Born on Christmas Day in 1918, Mr. Hillman was the
10 fifth of seven children to John and Juliet Hillman and grew up
11 watching his father build the last great industrial empire in
12 Pittsburgh; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman graduated from the Taft Boarding School
14 in Watertown, Connecticut, before earning a bachelor's degree
15 from Princeton University in 1941; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman proudly served his country in the United

1 States Navy during World War II where he trained as a fighter
2 pilot but never had the opportunity to deploy for combat
3 himself; and

4 WHEREAS, After the war, Mr. Hillman returned to Pittsburgh
5 and eventually took the reins of the company his father started,
6 The Hillman Company, after his father died in 1959; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman ran The Hillman Company for more than 30
8 years, where he excelled at buying and selling properties for a
9 profit; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman had a business prowess that soon moved
11 him past the Carnegie and Mellon family heirs to become the
12 wealthiest man in Pittsburgh and a constant fixture on the
13 Forbes 400 list of richest Americans; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman had a strong national reputation as
15 someone with the ability to read and respond to changes in the
16 business environment; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman had a talent of giving sound advice to
18 other corporate leaders that soon led him on a path to investing
19 in technology startups across the nation, including playing a
20 prominent role in the development of Silicon Valley in the
21 1970s; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman stepped away from day-to-day operations
23 of The Hillman Company in the late 1980s and retired as chairman
24 of the board in 1993 at 75 years of age; and

25 WHEREAS, At the height of his career, Mr. Hillman served on
26 the boards of 10 major companies, including Chemical Banking
27 Corporation, PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., and General
28 Electric; and

29 WHEREAS, Although he was a very successful businessman, Mr.
30 Hillman contributed even more to his community through his

1 gracious and often private philanthropy which he focused on
2 intently well into his 90s, and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman believed that Pittsburgh's renaissance
4 should be more than brick and mortar and that individuals,
5 nonprofit organizations and businesses should also invest in and
6 care about people of every background, neighborhood and faith;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman, through both the Hillman Foundation,
9 which was started by his father in 1951, and the Henry L.
10 Hillman Foundation, donated millions of dollars to spur the
11 advancements of science, technology and medicine, three fields
12 in which Mr. Hillman had a very strong interest; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1999, Mr. Hillman, through his foundations,
14 donated \$10 million to establish the Hillman Cancer Center in
15 Shadyside, which has become the University of Pittsburgh Medical
16 Center's (UPMC) flagship cancer treatment and research facility;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Six years later, in 2005, Mr. Hillman's foundation
19 donated the largest single grant in the history of the
20 University of Pittsburgh, \$20 million, to start the Hillman
21 Fellows Program for Innovative Cancer Research at UPMC; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2008, the Henry L. Hillman Foundation gave \$10
23 million to Carnegie Mellon University for a research building
24 which was called the Hillman Center for Future Generation
25 Technologies; and

26 WHEREAS, It is truly a measure of Mr. Hillman's long-term
27 dedication to service that not only were his and his wife's
28 charitable efforts record breaking, but the result of those
29 efforts will continue to be part of the fabric of the Pittsburgh
30 region for years to come; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman's thoughtful and unique perspective on
2 philanthropy was displayed in his comment about the Hillman
3 Cancer Center in June 2005: "Buildings do not treat cancer.
4 People do"; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman's contributions to the University of
6 Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University spurred research and
7 made Pittsburgh one of the leading centers for technology,
8 biotechnology and medical research in the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, On a personal level, Mr. Hillman was known to have a
10 great sense of humor and to be gracious in the way he treated
11 his colleagues and employees; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman was known to carefully consider every
13 problem and was never afraid to tackle the toughest challenges
14 by carefully examining the pros and cons, even making lists when
15 necessary; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman greatly enjoyed talking to people and
17 asking how they could make a difference, how they could inspire
18 others, and take advantage of future opportunities; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman was a fiercely private man who demurred
20 on interview requests and took pride in having his wife Elsie
21 take the spotlight; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman's long history of public service in
23 Pittsburgh is unlikely to be matched any time soon, as he
24 proudly served as chairman or board member for the Allegheny
25 Conference on Community Development, the Regional Industrial
26 Development Corporation of Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Urban
27 Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, ACTION-Housing, Inc., and
28 the Pittsburgh Regional Planning Commission; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman was also on the board of Children's
30 Hospital in Pittsburgh for more than 40 years; and

1 WHEREAS, As a long-time supporter of arts and culture, Mr.
2 Hillman donated millions of dollars to the Carnegie Museums, the
3 Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman's beloved wife Elsie preceded him in
6 death in August 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman has said that he would like to be
8 remembered for "having done right" by his family and community;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Hillman has been instrumental in raising
11 Pittsburgh's standing around the world, as the city's reputation
12 for science, innovation, research, cultural and educational
13 institutions and quality of life is a direct result of the
14 immense investment of time, critical thinking and financial
15 support of Mr. Hillman and his late wife; and therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
17 and legacy of Henry L. Hillman and recognize his exemplary
18 contributions to Pennsylvania.