

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 532 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY PHILLIPS-HILL, DINNIMAN, MARTIN, FOLMER, VOGEL, SCHWANK, YAW, COSTA, KILLION, K. WARD, AUMENT, TARTAGLIONE, J. WARD, BROWNE AND MASTRIANO, APRIL 8, 2019

SENATOR PHILLIPS-HILL, STATE GOVERNMENT, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 38 (Holidays and Observances) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for holidays and
3 observances.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 38 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding parts to read:

8 PART I

9 GENERAL PROVISIONS

10 (Reserved)

11 PART II

12 SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

13 Chapter

14 11. Preliminary Provisions (Reserved)

15 13. Veteran Recognition

16 CHAPTER 11

17 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

1 (Reserved)

2 CHAPTER 13

3 VETERAN RECOGNITION

4 Sec.

5 1301. Scope of chapter.

6 1302. ~~First~~ PERSIAN Gulf War Veterans Day. <--

7 1303. ~~Afghanistan War~~ GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM Veterans Day. <--

8 ~~1304. Second Gulf War Veterans Day.~~ <--

9 § 1301. Scope of chapter.

10 This chapter recognizes the contributions of veterans of the
11 United States Armed Forces from this Commonwealth in major
12 conflicts since the Vietnam War.

13 § 1302. ~~First~~ PERSIAN Gulf War Veterans Day. <--

14 (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General
15 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

16 (1) On August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein ordered Iraqi
17 troops to invade and occupy the sovereign nation of Kuwait.

18 (2) The United States led an international coalition
19 demanding Saddam Hussein to withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwait
20 by January 15, 1991.

21 (3) After Iraq failed to meet the deadline, passed by
22 the United Nations Security Council, President George H. W.
23 Bush on January 16, 1991, ordered United States Armed Forces
24 to begin "Operation Desert Storm."

25 (4) On January 17, 750,000 coalition forces from 36
26 nations, including 540,000 United States Armed Forces, began
27 the battle to liberate Kuwait from occupation.

28 (5) After an intensive air campaign, coalition forces
29 liberated Kuwait City on February 28, 1991.

30 (6) On March 6, after negotiating a cease-fire,

1 President Bush announced the end of combat operations.

2 (7) By the end of the conflict, 200 United States Armed
3 Forces members were killed, including 29 from this
4 Commonwealth.

5 (8) The bravery of United States Armed Forces and their
6 allies should be recognized for the liberation of Kuwait and
7 restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty as an independent nation.

8 (b) Designation.--March 6 of each year is designated as
9 "~~First~~ PERSIAN Gulf War Veterans Day." <--

10 (c) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a
11 proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational
12 institutions to observe "~~First~~ PERSIAN Gulf War Veterans Day" <--
13 and to conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all
14 those involved in the ~~first~~ PERSIAN Gulf War and remembering the <--
15 sacrifices they made for their country. The proclamation may not
16 mandate a public school or educational institution to
17 participate in the observance.

18 § 1303. ~~Afghanistan War~~ GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM Veterans Day. <--

19 (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General
20 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

21 (1) The ~~war~~ CAMPAIGN in Afghanistan, which is America's <--
22 longest conflict, began in 2001 and continues to this day.

23 (2) Following the terrorist attacks on September 11,
24 2001, the United States demanded that the Taliban regime stop
25 harboring Al Qaeda, the terrorist organization responsible
26 for the 9/11 attacks, and hand over the Al Qaeda leader Osama
27 bin Laden.

28 (3) President George W. Bush ordered United States Armed
29 Forces to begin "Operation Enduring Freedom" (OEF) to combat <--
30 terrorism in Afghanistan and confront Al Qaeda.

1 (4) United States Armed Forces first entered Afghanistan
2 and began combat operations on October 7, 2001.

3 (5) On May 2, 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed during
4 the fighting after President Barack Obama ordered Navy SEALs
5 to raid Osama bin Laden's compound.

6 (6) On ~~December 28, 2014,~~ DECEMBER 31, 2014, the United <--
7 States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
8 combat operations in Afghanistan officially ended.

9 (7) Since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom,
10 over 830,000 Americans, including 18,000 from this
11 Commonwealth, have served in Afghanistan.

12 (8) More than 2,000 members of the United States Armed
13 Forces, including 98 from this Commonwealth, were killed in
14 action in Afghanistan since combat began.

15 (9) More than 19,000 members of the United States Armed
16 Forces were wounded in service to their country in <--
17 Afghanistan.

18 ~~(b) Designation. October 7 of each year is designated as~~
19 ~~"Afghanistan War Veterans Day."~~

20 ~~(c) Proclamation. The Governor shall issue annually a~~
21 ~~proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational~~
22 ~~institutions to observe "Afghanistan War Veterans Day" and to~~
23 ~~conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those~~
24 ~~involved in the war in Afghanistan and remembering the~~
25 ~~sacrifices they made for their country. The proclamation may not~~
26 ~~mandate a public school or educational institution to~~
27 ~~participate in the observance.~~

28 ~~§ 1304. Second Gulf War Veterans Day.~~

29 ~~(a) Legislative findings and declarations. The General~~
30 ~~Assembly finds and declares as follows:~~

1 ~~(5)~~ (16) More than 4,000 members of the United States <--
2 Armed Forces lost their lives during the second Gulf War, <--
3 "OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM" AND "OPERATION NEW DAWN," including <--
4 197 from this Commonwealth, and more than 32,000 were
5 wounded.

6 (17) WITH THE RISE OF THE TERRORIST GROUP KNOWN AS THE <--
7 ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS), THE UNITED STATES
8 CREATED A NEW COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE IN 2014, DUBBED
9 "OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE."

10 (18) MARCH 23, 2019, MARKED THE END OF ISIS CONTROLLING
11 ANY PHYSICAL TERRITORY.

12 (19) UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES UNDER "OPERATION
13 INHERENT RESOLVE" CONTINUE TO WORK BY, WITH AND THROUGH LOCAL
14 PARTNERS TO DEFEAT THE FINAL ISIS FORCE AND STABILIZE THE
15 REGION.

16 (20) THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIS UNDER "OPERATION INHERENT
17 RESOLVE" HAS CLAIMED MORE THAN 80 AMERICAN LIVES, WITH
18 ANOTHER 80 WOUNDED IN ACTION.

19 (21) UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE SERVED
20 DOMESTICALLY SECURING KEY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT OVERSEAS
21 OPERATION.

22 (22) SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, MEMBERS OF THE UNITED
23 STATES MILITARY HAVE SERVED ON NEARLY EVERY CONTINENT
24 FIGHTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

25 (b) Designation.--~~December 18~~ OCTOBER 7 of each year is <--
26 designated as "~~Second Gulf War~~ "GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM Veterans <--
27 Day."

28 (c) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a
29 proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational
30 institutions to observe "~~Second Gulf War~~ "GLOBAL WAR ON <--

1 TERRORISM Veterans Day" and to conduct exercises recognizing the
2 contributions of all those involved in the ~~second Gulf War~~ <--
3 GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM and remembering the sacrifices they made <--
4 for their country. The proclamation may not mandate a public
5 school or educational institution to participate in the
6 observance.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.