
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 187 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY K. WARD, JUNE 25, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 25, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating August 25, 2019, as "Banana Split Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This year marks 115 years since the banana split was
4 first made in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The banana split was first made and sold in Latrobe,
6 Pennsylvania; and

7 WHEREAS, A 23-year-old University of Pittsburgh student and
8 apprentice pharmacist named David Strickler was working at
9 Tassell's Pharmacy in 1904 where he made frozen treats with ice
10 cream; and

11 WHEREAS, One day Mr. Strickler was challenged by a customer
12 to make something different, which he did by cutting lengthwise
13 a recent import to America - a fruit called the banana, and
14 laying both halves in a dish, then placing three scoops of
15 different-flavored ice cream on top, heaping strawberries,
16 chocolate syrup and pineapple chunks over the ice cream, adding
17 chopped nuts, then topping it all with whipped cream and
18 crowning each mound with a maraschino cherry, all for the price

1 of 10¢; and

2 WHEREAS, Westmoreland Glass Company, located in Grapeville,
3 began making custom-made long, narrow dishes in 1905 after Mr.
4 Strickler placed an order for what he called "banana boat"
5 dishes and continued to produce them for banana splits until
6 1984; and

7 WHEREAS, A coworker of Mr. Strickler's eventually left
8 Latrobe to attend the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia
9 and worked in a soda fountain where he began making banana
10 splits; and

11 WHEREAS, Within the next 10 years, the banana split would
12 become synonymous with America's most famous beach resort at the
13 time, Atlantic City, where people from all over tried the banana
14 split and its popularity grew; and

15 WHEREAS, The banana split grew into a national treasure of a
16 treat after Walgreens Drug Store made it the store's signature
17 dish at its soda fountains across the country in the 1920s; and

18 WHEREAS, The Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley Chamber of
19 Commerce hosts the annual "Great American Banana Split
20 Celebration" to honor the heritage of the banana split within
21 the Latrobe community, bringing thousands of visitors to the
22 area for the festival's three-day event every August; and

23 WHEREAS, The National Ice Cream Retailers Association
24 commemorated Latrobe as the official birthplace of the banana
25 split; and

26 WHEREAS, In 2016, the United States Postal Service issued a
27 series of "Soda Fountain Favorite" stamps which included the
28 banana split; and

29 WHEREAS, The banana split is still a staple menu item at ice
30 cream parlors and dining establishments across the United

1 States; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate August 25, 2019, as

3 "Banana Split Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all residents of this

5 Commonwealth to join in recognizing and enjoying a banana split.