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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 68 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY BREWSTER, COSTA, MARTIN, FONTANA, BOSCOLA, HUGHES,  
STREET, BARTOLOTTA, PHILLIPS-HILL AND DUSH, MARCH 28, 2023

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MARCH 28, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the LaRosa Boys and Girls Club for dedicating the  
2 earliest-known Vietnam War memorial in the United States.

3 WHEREAS, The LaRosa Boys and Girls Club, in the city of  
4 McKeesport, dedicated the earliest-known United States monument  
5 to soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who lost their lives in  
6 the Vietnam War; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1966, after five former members of the McKeesport  
8 Boys Club were killed during a nine-month stretch of the war, a  
9 tablet was placed by club founder Samuel LaRosa outside the club  
10 with the names of the five fallen soldiers; and

11 WHEREAS, The November 11, 1966, event was documented in  
12 McKeesport's The Daily News newspaper on November 12, 1966; and

13 WHEREAS, A bronze plaque and flagpole were unveiled by the  
14 mothers of the five fallen soldiers; and

15 WHEREAS, The plaque reads: "In memory of McKeesport Boys'  
16 Club members who have made the supreme sacrifice in the service  
17 of their country"; and

18 WHEREAS, By March 1969, another six names were added to the

1 memorial to honor the 11 LaRosa Club members who were killed in  
2 a 40-month period who became known as "The LaRosa 11"; and

3 WHEREAS, Twenty-three names, which include "The LaRosa 11,"  
4 would come to be displayed on the tablet by the end of 1975 to  
5 honor all 23 McKeesport High School graduates who lost their  
6 lives in the Vietnam War, and are remembered as the "McKeesport  
7 23"; and

8 WHEREAS, Of the "McKeesport 23," 15 served in the Army, six  
9 in the Marines, one in the Navy and one in the Air Force; and

10 WHEREAS, At least one member of each graduating class from  
11 1964 to 1969 was killed in Vietnam; and

12 WHEREAS, Overall, 882 western Pennsylvania residents were  
13 killed in Vietnam; and

14 WHEREAS, The McKeesport Boys Club is now named the LaRosa  
15 Youth Club, in honor of Sam R. LaRosa, who started the local  
16 organization in 1945; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the LaRosa Boys and Girls  
18 Club for dedicating the earliest-known Vietnam War Memorial in  
19 the United States.