

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 9, 2013, as "The Battle of Guadalcanal  
2 Remembrance Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, February 9, 2013, marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
4 Battle of Guadalcanal, the first major Allied offensive action  
5 in the Pacific Theater during World War II; and

6 WHEREAS, The six-month battle, from August 7, 1942, to  
7 February 9, 1943, claimed the lives of 1,592 American troops,  
8 wounded 4,183 and disabled thousands more through tropical  
9 diseases; and

10 WHEREAS, The code named "Operation Watchtower" was  
11 orchestrated as a follow-up to the victories at the Battle of  
12 Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway and was successful in ending  
13 Japanese expansion and establishing Allied air superiority in  
14 the southern Pacific; and

15 WHEREAS, The Japanese construction of an airfield on  
16 Guadalcanal, an island, part of the Solomon Islands off the  
17 eastern coast of Australia, would have threatened the sea lines

1 of communication with Australia as well as protected Japan's  
2 major base at Rabaul in Papua, New Guinea; and

3 WHEREAS, The victory at Guadalcanal was a militarily  
4 strategic victory as it allowed for further advances in the  
5 South Pacific and laid the foundation for the "island hopping"  
6 campaigns; and

7 WHEREAS, The victory at Guadalcanal was a psychological  
8 victory for the American military which had beaten the best of  
9 the Empire of Japan's land, air and naval forces; and

10 WHEREAS, The victory at Guadalcanal generated increased  
11 optimism and attention for the United States' war effort in the  
12 Pacific; and

13 WHEREAS, The gallant forces who fought battles, disease,  
14 malnutrition and extreme weather conditions displayed incredible  
15 bravery and stamina; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate  
17 February 9, 2013, as "The Battle of Guadalcanal Remembrance  
18 Day"; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage local  
20 governments and communities throughout this Commonwealth to  
21 conduct appropriate " The Battle of Guadalcanal Remembrance Day"  
22 observances to ensure that the many sacrifices of that day are  
23 not forgotten.