

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 1, 2013, as "The Battle of the Crooked Billet
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, During the American War for Independence at the time
4 of the Valley Forge encampment in 1777 and 1778, President
5 Thomas Wharton of the Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council
6 commissioned Brigadier General John Lacey, the youngest general
7 in American history and a native of Bucks County, to lead the
8 Pennsylvania Militia in patrolling the countryside outside
9 Philadelphia; and

10 WHEREAS, General George Washington, commander in chief of the
11 Continental Army, charged General John Lacey with the mission to
12 keep the local inhabitants from selling supplies to the British
13 Army, which occupied Philadelphia, and to reroute those supplies
14 to the Continental Army at Valley Forge; and

15 WHEREAS, Due to the success of the Pennsylvania Militia, the
16 British Army developed a plan to annihilate the Pennsylvania
17 Militia by ambush; and

1 WHEREAS, The British Army also planned to capture General
2 John Lacey; and

3 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Militia was comprised of
4 approximately 300 men from Bucks County and historic Cumberland
5 County as well as from other places throughout this
6 Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, The British Army attacked the Pennsylvania Militia
8 with a force of approximately 850 men in the early morning of
9 May 1, 1778, in the present-day Borough of Hatboro, Montgomery
10 County, and the present-day Township of Warminster, Bucks
11 County; and

12 WHEREAS, The Queen's Rangers attempted to push the
13 Pennsylvania Militia south toward the point of ambush along
14 present-day Horsham Road; and

15 WHEREAS, General John Lacey was not fooled by the trap and
16 led the Pennsylvania Militia north, fighting its way through a
17 blockade held by British Dragoons, escaping deeper into Bucks
18 County; and

19 WHEREAS, The British committed war atrocities on the wounded
20 by throwing them into burning piles of buckwheat straw and
21 stabbing, with their bayonets and cutlasses, militiamen who were
22 surrendering and wounded; and

23 WHEREAS, Twenty-six Pennsylvania Militiamen were killed in
24 action that day; and

25 WHEREAS, Fifty-eight Pennsylvania Militiamen were captured;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, General John Lacey's heroic leadership and quick
28 thinking on that fateful day prevented further casualties,
29 saving the lives of hundreds of Pennsylvania Militiamen; and

30 WHEREAS, General John Lacey, 48 hours after the battle,

1 continued with his orders of keeping supplies from occupied
2 Philadelphia and redirecting supplies to Valley Forge; and

3 WHEREAS, General John Lacey continued to serve the people of
4 Pennsylvania when, in November of 1778, he was elected to the
5 Pennsylvania General Assembly and, in November 1779, he was
6 elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council; and

7 WHEREAS, It is fitting to honor the men of the Pennsylvania
8 Militia under the command and leadership of Brigadier General
9 John Lacey for their heroism and, especially for those men who
10 paid the ultimate sacrifice on May 1, 1778, to recognize the
11 competent and heroic leadership of Brigadier General John Lacey
12 in preserving the militia from annihilation and leading it to
13 safety, and to remember the militia's sacred participation in
14 the fight and struggle for freedom in the early years of the
15 young republic that would become the United States of America;
16 therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 1,
18 2013, as "The Battle of the Crooked Billet Day" in Pennsylvania.