

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

18 (Reserved)

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

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

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

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

17 § 1303. Afghanistan War Veterans Day.

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

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

22 (2) Following the terrorist attacks on September 11,
23 2001, the United States demanded that the Taliban regime hand
24 over Osama bin Laden and stop harboring Al Qaeda.

25 (3) President George W. Bush ordered United States Armed
26 Forces to begin "Operation Enduring Freedom" to combat
27 terrorism in Afghanistan and confront Al Qaeda.

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

30 (5) On May 2, 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed during

1 the fighting after President Barack Obama ordered Navy SEALs
2 to raid Osama bin Laden's compound.

3 (6) On December 28, 2014, the United States and the
4 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) combat operations
5 in Afghanistan officially ended.

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

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

12 (9) More than 19,000 members of the United States Armed
13 Forces were wounded in service to their country in
14 Afghanistan.

15 (b) Designation.--October 7 of each year is designated as
16 "Afghanistan War Veterans Day."

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

25 § 1304. Second Gulf War Veterans Day.

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

28 (1) The second Gulf War was fought from 2003 to 2008.

29 (2) On March 19, 2003, President George W. Bush
30 announced the beginning of combat operations in Iraq after

1 Saddam Hussein failed to meet the deadline for leaving Iraq.

2 (3) On December 18, 2011, the last member of the United
3 States Armed Forces left Iraq.

4 (4) Since the beginning of "Operation Iraqi Freedom,"
5 2.5 million Americans have served in Iraq.

6 (5) More than 4,000 members of the United States Armed
7 Forces lost their lives during the second Gulf War, including
8 197 from this Commonwealth, and more than 32,000 were
9 wounded.

10 (b) Designation.--December 18 of each year is designated
11 as "Second Gulf War Veterans Day."

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

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.