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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 577 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, BROWNLEE, MILLARD, VEREB, CRUZ,  
J. HARRIS, SONNEY, D. COSTA, SIMS, MIRABITO, V. BROWN,  
K. BOYLE, KORTZ, PARKER, BISHOP, DAVIS, VITALI, D. MILLER,  
KAVULICH, NEILSON, READSHAW, DIGIROLAMO, O'NEILL, BAKER,  
YOUNGBLOOD, COHEN, HELM, B. BOYLE, LUCAS, KULA, MCGEEHAN,  
BARRAR, BOBACK, ROSS, MAHONEY, HENNESSEY, DAVIDSON, GOODMAN,  
HAGGERTY, GAINEY, GODSHALL, PASHINSKI, KIM, FRANKEL, THOMAS,  
CLAY, HARKINS, O'BRIEN, CALTAGIRONE, WATSON, MURT, ROEBUCK,  
GINGRICH, GILLEN AND MCCARTER, DECEMBER 9, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
DECEMBER 9, 2013

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Philadelphia Fire Department for 277 continuous  
2 years of providing fire protection and countless acts of  
3 bravery and heroism in serving the people and visitors of the  
4 City of Brotherly Love.

5 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Fire Department has served the  
6 residents and visitors of the city since December 7, 1736; and

7 WHEREAS, Benjamin Franklin brought a group of 30 men together  
8 on that date to form the Union Fire Company, the first organized  
9 volunteer firefighting company within Philadelphia; and

10 WHEREAS, The equipment of the first Union Fire Company  
11 included leather buckets with strong bags and baskets for  
12 packing and transporting goods, which were taken to every fire;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Franklin and his newly formed firefighting  
15 brigade met monthly to discuss fire prevention and firefighting

1 methods, which included mandating all homeowners to have leather  
2 firefighting buckets within their houses; and

3 WHEREAS, The efforts by Mr. Franklin and his firefighting  
4 cohorts within the Union Fire Company inspired other men to form  
5 their own companies in other neighborhoods within the city,  
6 which, within a short span of time, brought about the formation  
7 of the Heart-in-Hand, the Britannia, the Fellowship and other  
8 fire companies; and

9 WHEREAS, The work of the volunteer firefighting companies,  
10 coupled with the matchless leadership of Mr. Franklin, helped  
11 alleviate the frantic fright the threat of fire created and  
12 caused Philadelphia to quickly become one of the world's safest  
13 cities in terms of fire damage; and

14 WHEREAS, In the late 1860s, city officials spoke of  
15 transforming the volunteer service that had provided great  
16 protection into a professional fire department to meet the ever-  
17 growing needs of an expanding city stepping into an industrial  
18 age; and

19 WHEREAS, In December 1870, a council meeting took place that  
20 included approval of an ordinance to establish a professional  
21 fire department, bringing forth the birth of the current  
22 Philadelphia Fire Department; and

23 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Fire Department responded to a  
24 combined total of 277,636 emergency incidents in 2011; and

25 WHEREAS, Nearly 230,000 of the combined total calls in 2011  
26 involved emergency medical incidents, and nearly 48,000 of those  
27 calls involved responses for fire and other 911 emergency public  
28 safety service requests; and

29 WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the Philadelphia Fire  
30 Department has provided outstanding and dedicated service to its

1 residents and visitors, and its firefighters have shown in  
2 countless ways their bravery and heroism in protecting life and  
3 property within the City of Brotherly Love; and

4 WHEREAS, Many firefighters with the Philadelphia Fire  
5 Department have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty; and

6 WHEREAS, Those who have given their lives in 2012 include  
7 Robert P. Neary and Daniel Sweeney and in 2013 Battalion Chief  
8 Michael Goodwin; and

9 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Fire Department works to prevent as  
10 well as combat fire within the city in order to protect lives;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, During 2012, members of the Philadelphia Fire  
13 Department visited 7,745 homes and installed 18,966 smoke alarms  
14 as part of its "Freedom from Fire, Building a Safe Environment  
15 through Community Risk Reduction" effort; and

16 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Fire Department, with the help of  
17 Drexel University, developed a fire safety application that  
18 provides fire and life safety information to help educate the  
19 public; and

20 WHEREAS, The combined strategy of conducting home visits,  
21 installing smoke alarms and providing fire and life safety  
22 education has contributed to a downward trend of fire fatalities  
23 within the city and resulted in the lowest number of fire  
24 fatalities in the Philadelphia Fire Department's recorded  
25 history; and

26 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Fire Department recently presented  
27 the 2013 "Firefighter of the Year" award to Firefighter Brandon  
28 Mlodzinski for his valiant efforts and dedicated service in the  
29 rescue of three young children in a storm-surfed Atlantic City  
30 surf; therefore be it

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and  
2 honor the Philadelphia Fire Department upon its 277th  
3 anniversary on December 7, 2013, its founder Benjamin Franklin  
4 and the other members who formed the city's Union Fire Company;  
5 and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and  
7 honor the current Philadelphia Fire Department upon the 143rd  
8 anniversary of its formal creation by the Philadelphia City  
9 Council; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
11 sacrifices of the department over the years in protecting life  
12 and property in the city, including the loss of firefighters  
13 Robert P. Neary and Daniel Sweeney in 2012 and Battalion Chief  
14 Michael Goodwin in 2013; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives join with the  
16 City of Philadelphia in congratulating Firefighter Brandon  
17 Mlodzinski for being named by the selection committee from  
18 Fireman's Hall as the 2013 "Firefighter of the Year."