
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 502 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, SCHWANK, FONTANA, KITCHEN, STACK, COSTA
AND WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 15, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 15, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recongnizing October 29, 2014, as the 153rd Anniversary of the
2 97th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment being
3 commissioned into service by Governor Andrew Curtain to
4 preserve and protect the Union during the Civil War.

5 WHEREAS, The 97th Regiment was assembled by State Senator H.
6 Jones Brooke, of Chester and Delaware Counties, and formed at
7 Camp Everhart, the wooded grove in the Borough of West Chester
8 that is today known as Everhart Park; and

9 WHEREAS, From 1861 to 1864, the 1,000 men of the 97th
10 Regiment saw action in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida,
11 participating in more than 20 major engagements and playing a
12 pivotal role in the effort to blockade and capture southern
13 ports in order to deprive Confederate states' trade and
14 supplies; and

15 WHEREAS, Through that service, which spanned virtually the
16 entire length of the Civil War, five members of the 97th
17 Regiment received the Medal of Honor: James E. Engle of Chester,
18 Dewitt Clinton of West Chester, John Wainwright of Syracuse, New
19 York, George Walton of Chester and Galusha Pennypacker of Valley

1 Forge; and

2 WHEREAS, Under the command of Galusha Pennypacker, the 97th
3 Regiment played a leading role in the capture of Fort Fischer,
4 which stood at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, guarding the
5 harbor of Wilmington, North Carolina, the Confederacy's last
6 remaining seaport; and

7 WHEREAS, Pennypacker, who originally began with the 97th
8 Regiment as Regimental Quartermaster, to this day remains the
9 youngest person to hold the rank of Brigadier General in the
10 United States Army; and

11 WHEREAS, A memorial to Pennypacker stands on the northeast
12 side of Logan Square on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in
13 Philadelphia; and

14 WHEREAS, Through several fierce engagements, the 97th
15 Regiment's original battle flag was so riddled with musket fire
16 that it was literally torn to shreds and its second battle flag,
17 which was hoisted over the capture of Fort Fischer by
18 Pennypacker, has been preserved by the Pennsylvania Museum and
19 Historical Commission; and

20 WHEREAS, In the decades following the Civil War, as part of a
21 renewed effort to document its history and remember its heroes,
22 a monument to the men of the 97th Regiment was erected at
23 Marshall Square Park in West Chester on October 29, 1887; and

24 WHEREAS, A special ceremony was held to rededicate the
25 monument and memorialize the men of the 97th Infantry on October
26 5, 2014; and

27 WHEREAS, Representatives from West Chester Borough, local
28 historians and Civil War reenactors from the current 97th
29 Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and the Sons of the Union
30 Veterans participated in the ceremony; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize October 29, 2014, as the
2 153rd Anniversary of the 97th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry
3 Regiment being commissioned into service and call on citizens of
4 this Commonwealth to ensure that the service, courage and
5 sacrifice of the men of the 97th Infantry are never forgotten.