
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 500 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY WATERS, SOLOBAY, D. EVANS, BISHOP, WASHINGTON,
CORRIGAN, DENLINGER, DONATUCCI, FORCIER, GINGRICH, GRUCELA,
HERSHEY, KIRKLAND, MANN, MUSTIO, PALLONE, RUBLEY, SANTONI,
SURRA, TIGUE, YOUNGBLOOD, CRUZ, DIGIROLAMO, FAIRCHILD,
GEORGE, GODSHALL, HERMAN, JAMES, LEDERER, MCILHATTAN, MYERS,
ROHRER, SAINATO, B. SMITH, THOMAS AND WILLIAMS,
NOVEMBER 24, 2003

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 24, 2003

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring firefighters, especially those
2 firefighters and support personnel who served in the recent
3 southern California firestorms and wildfires, for their
4 bravery, dedication and heroism.

5 WHEREAS, According to United States Secretary of Agriculture
6 Ann Veneman, on October 29, 2003, 14 fires were burning in
7 southern California, impacting four national forests; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the California Farm Bureau Federation,
9 more than 80,000 people and 3,000 farm animals and house pets
10 had been evacuated; and

11 WHEREAS, At least 13,500 firefighters and 4,000 support
12 personnel, many of whom were volunteers and some of whom
13 traveled from other areas of the country, worked long hours
14 fighting the fires; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the International Association of Fire
16 Fighters, Californians have suffered the loss of 22 people; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the California Farm Bureau Federation,
2 Californians suffered the loss of more than 3,280 farm animals;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, According to an article published in the New York
5 Times on November 4, 2003, initial estimates of property damage
6 and firefighting costs were \$2 billion and rising; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the New York Times, fires caused the
8 loss of 3,500 homes and blackened 743,621 acres; and

9 WHEREAS, Some firefighters watched their own homes burn while
10 they were fighting the fire for their neighbors; and

11 WHEREAS, These wildfires are considered the worst in
12 California's history; and

13 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has approximately 2,450 fire companies
14 and nearly 1,100 ambulance services; and

15 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, 90% of fire companies are
16 staffed by volunteers, totaling about 78,000 volunteers; and

17 WHEREAS, On average, ten Pennsylvania firefighters die in the
18 line of duty every year; and

19 WHEREAS, This volunteer spirit is alive throughout the United
20 States and in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
22 honor firefighters for their bravery, dedication and heroism,
23 especially those firefighters and support personnel who served
24 in the recent southern California firestorms and wildfires.