
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 401 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY GERGELY, HARHAI, KOTIK, BELFANTI, BOBACK, BRENNAN, CAUSER, COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, ELLIS, GALLOWAY, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GRUCELA, HELM, HERSHEY, JAMES, KORTZ, LEVDANSKY, MAHONEY, McCALL, McILHATTAN, MENSCH, MILLARD, MOYER, M. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PAYTON, RAMALEY, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROSS, SAINATO, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, SWANGER, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, SANTONI, BEYER, PAYNE, DALEY, CALTAGIRONE, ROHRER, MANN AND SURRA, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Darr Mine Disaster, a
2 historic event in the history of the Commonwealth of
3 Pennsylvania that tragically cost the lives of more than two
4 hundred coal miners at the Darr Mine located in Rostraver,
5 Pennsylvania.

6 WHEREAS, Coal mining has a distinguished history in the
7 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with coal remaining a principal
8 product of this State; and

9 WHEREAS, In the annals of mining, coal miners bravely work
10 long hours in inherently dangerous conditions, daily risking
11 their lives; and

12 WHEREAS, On December 19, 1907, an explosion occurred in the
13 Darr Mine in southwestern Pennsylvania, which tragically took
14 the lives of 239 men and teenage boys; and

15 WHEREAS, This mining disaster is considered the worst in the
16 history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the second worst

1 in the history of the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, Most of those killed in the gas and dust explosion
3 in the dark tunnels of the Darr Mine were Hungarian-American
4 immigrant laborers; and

5 WHEREAS, These Hungarian-American laborers were among the
6 countless number of hard-working immigrants who came to America
7 to seek a better life for their families, but who died
8 prematurely due to hazardous unsafe working conditions; and

9 WHEREAS, In the year 1907, as many as 1,400 coal miners died
10 in mining incidents in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

11 WHEREAS, In December 1907, the deadliest month in United
12 States coal mining history, more than 3,200 miners died in the
13 entire nation; and

14 WHEREAS, As a result of the Darr Mine explosion, and because
15 of similar tragedies, mine safety became a public issue,
16 resulting in new laws, policies and procedures for the mining
17 industry designed to better safeguard the lives of those working
18 underground; and

19 WHEREAS, Given that deep mining remains an inherently
20 dangerous occupation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Deep
21 Mine Safety program is regarded as a national model due to
22 advances in knowledge, equipment and regulations; and

23 WHEREAS, A number of Hungarian organizations, along with the
24 local community, are sponsoring a ceremony to commemorate the
25 tragic event that took place one hundred years ago; and

26 WHEREAS, These organizations include the American Hungarian
27 Federation; the Bethlen Communities, Ligonier, Pennsylvania; the
28 Calvin Synod of the United Church of Christ; the Hungarian
29 Reformed Church of America; the Hungarian Reformed Federation of
30 America and the William Penn Association; and

1 WHEREAS, The commemoration ceremony is scheduled for
2 Saturday, September 29, 2007, at 11 o'clock a.m., in Van Meter,
3 Pennsylvania, at the Olive Branch Baptist Church and neighboring
4 Olive Branch Cemetery, where 71 Darr miners, 49 of whom are
5 unknown, are buried in a common grave; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
7 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania join with the sponsors and all
8 Pennsylvanians in recognizing the Darr Mine Disaster as an
9 important event in the history of the Commonwealth of
10 Pennsylvania and in honoring those who died by affirming that
11 the sacrifice of these men and boys was not in vain; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
14 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania congratulate the sponsors and
15 participants for their efforts in commemorating this event and
16 recognize the important, historic role the Darr Mine Disaster
17 had in leading to better worker safety laws in Pennsylvania and
18 around the country; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of
20 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the
21 American Hungarian Federation at the National Press Building,
22 No. 809, Washington, DC 20045.