

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 586 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, FAIRCHILD, BELFANTI, LONGIETTI, BAKER, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BEAR, BENNINGHOFF, BENNINGTON, BOBACK, BOYD, BRENNAN, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CASORIO, CAUSER, CIVERA, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, COSTA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, CURRY, CUTLER, DALEY, DALLY, DeLUCA, DePASQUALE, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FLECK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL, GRUCELA, HANNA, HARHAI, HARHART, HARKINS, HARPER, HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, KAUFFMAN, M. KELLER, KENNEY, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, LENTZ, MAHER, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANDERINO, MANN, MANTZ, MARKOSEK, MARSHALL, MARSICO, McGEEHAN, McILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, METCALFE, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILNE, MOUL, MOYER, MUNDY, MURT, MUSTIO, MYERS, NAILOR, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PEIFER, PETRI, PETRONE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PYLE, RAMALEY, RAPP, READSHAW, REED, REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, M. SMITH, S. H. SMITH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STABACK, STERN, R. STEVENSON, SURRA, SWANGER, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TRUE, TURZAI, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WALKO, WANSACZ, WATSON, WHEATLEY, J. WHITE, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, DENLINGER, EVERETT AND GILLESPIE, FEBRUARY 11, 2008

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 11, 2008

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 30, 2008, as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Vietnam Conflict was fought in Vietnam from 1961
4 to 1975, and it involved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in
5 conflict with the United States and South Vietnam; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States became involved in the Vietnam
7 Conflict because policymakers in the United States believed that

1 if South Vietnam fell to a communist government then communism
2 would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia; and

3 WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces began
4 serving in an advisory role to South Vietnam in 1961; and

5 WHEREAS, As a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on
6 August 2 and 4, 1964, the Congress of the United States
7 overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law
8 88-408) on August 7, 1964, which effectively handed over war-
9 making powers to President Lyndon B. Johnson until such time as
10 peace and security had returned to Vietnam; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat
12 units arrived in Vietnam; and

13 WHEREAS, By the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States
14 troops in Vietnam and by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000
15 troops was reached; and

16 WHEREAS, On January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were
17 signed, which required the release of all United States
18 prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all
19 United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

20 WHEREAS, On March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces
21 completed the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam; and

22 WHEREAS, More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed
23 Forces lost their lives in Vietnam, and more than 300,000
24 members were wounded; and

25 WHEREAS, In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated
26 in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the
27 United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing in
28 action in Vietnam; and

29 WHEREAS, The Vietnam Conflict was an extremely divisive issue
30 among the people of the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces who served
2 bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam
3 Conflict were caught upon their return home in the crossfire of
4 public debate about the involvement of the United States in the
5 Vietnam Conflict; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
7 honor in the establishment of "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
8 Day" and how it would be an appropriate way to honor those
9 members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam
10 during the Vietnam Conflict; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
12 proclaim March 30, 2008, as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"
13 in Pennsylvania.