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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 867 Session of  
2008

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INTRODUCED BY RAPP, FAIRCHILD, GRUCELA, DIGIROLAMO, KAUFFMAN, ADOLPH, BAKER, BEYER, BOBACK, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, COHEN, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DePASQUALE, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FLECK, FRANKEL, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HARHAI, HELM, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HESS, M. KELLER, KILLION, KORTZ, KULA, LENTZ, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MANTZ, MARSHALL, MARSICO, McILHATTAN, MELIO, MILLARD, R. MILLER, MOUL, MUSTIO, NAILOR, PALLONE, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PICKETT, RAMALEY, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STABACK, STERN, SWANGER, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, WOJNAROSKI AND GEIST, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing December 2, 2008, as "The Order of the Silver Rose  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant, is a weapon of  
4 war deployed by the United States Armed Forces against the enemy  
5 during the Vietnam Conflict; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 22 million gallons of the chemical were  
7 sprayed by hand, aircraft and by the South Vietnamese during the  
8 war to defoliate areas of the jungle and to destroy crops; and

9 WHEREAS, Thousands of our own servicemen and women have  
10 become sick or have died since the end of the war as a result of  
11 exposure to Agent Orange dioxins; and

12 WHEREAS, Currently, thousands of Americans who served in

1 Vietnam suffer from the effects of exposure to Agent Orange,  
2 which range from cancer to memory loss to Type II diabetes; and

3 WHEREAS, The Order of the Silver Rose strives to educate  
4 Vietnam veterans of the many maladies associated with exposure  
5 to Agent Orange and to inform them that a simple yearly physical  
6 with CT scan and X-ray could easily save their lives by early  
7 detection and treatment of diseases resulting from exposure to  
8 Agent Orange; and

9 WHEREAS, These heroes have been sickened or, in many cases,  
10 have given their lives for the freedom of United States citizens  
11 and deserve recognition; and

12 WHEREAS, American soldiers exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam  
13 have received no medals or recognition for the injuries  
14 sustained from exposure to the chemical; and

15 WHEREAS, The Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit,  
16 commonly called the Purple Heart, is awarded to members of the  
17 armed forces of the United States who have been wounded or  
18 killed in battle; and

19 WHEREAS, The criteria for receiving the Purple Heart includes  
20 injury caused by chemical, biological or nuclear agents released  
21 by the enemy, and the medal can be awarded if the injury is the  
22 result of "friendly fire," designed to inflict damage or destroy  
23 enemy troops or equipment; and

24 WHEREAS, American soldiers suffering from the effects of  
25 exposure to Agent Orange from the Southeast Asia Theater of  
26 Operations should receive the Purple Heart in recognition of  
27 injuries sustained while standing in harm's way for their  
28 country; and

29 WHEREAS, The Order of the Silver Rose, an informal society,  
30 exists for the exclusive purpose of recognizing those United

1 States military personnel exposed to and suffering from the  
2 effects of Agent Orange as being deserving of the Purple Heart;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The fact that the United States Government,  
5 especially the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,  
6 provides medical treatment and financial compensation to Vietnam  
7 veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange clearly demonstrates  
8 that it is an injury deserving of recognition; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the courage, heroism and  
11 contributions of American service personnel found to have been  
12 exposed to Agent Orange dioxins and to chemical and biological  
13 exposures; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the  
15 President of the United States to grant the Order of the Purple  
16 Heart to American soldiers who were injured from their exposure  
17 to Agent Orange during the Vietnam Conflict; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize  
19 December 2, 2008, as "Order of the Silver Rose Day" in  
20 Pennsylvania; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
22 Gary J. Chenett, who serves with distinction as the National  
23 Director of the Order of the Silver Rose; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
25 the President of the United States.