
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 556 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY CASORIO, GERGELY AND KORTZ, DECEMBER 8, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
DECEMBER 8, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring First Sergeant of the United States Army, Leonard A.
2 Funk, Jr., for his courage and heroism during World War II.

3 WHEREAS, Leonard A. Funk, Jr., was a war hero who deserves
4 recognition for his efforts in service to the United States
5 during World War II; and

6 WHEREAS, Leonard A. Funk, Jr., was born August 17, 1916, in
7 Braddock Township; and

8 WHEREAS, Sergeant Funk enlisted in the United States Army in
9 June 1941 and volunteered for airborne training; and

10 WHEREAS, Sergeant Funk fought in World War II, where he
11 served in the Normandy Invasion in 1944; and

12 WHEREAS, Sergeant Funk's service with the airborne unit took
13 him through Belgium, across the Rhine River in Germany and to
14 the banks of the Elbe River, where his unit waited to enter
15 Berlin as World War II came to an end; and

16 WHEREAS, Sergeant Funk was among the British and United
17 States soldiers who were dropped into Holland during Operation
18 Market Garden in an attempt to secure bridges over the Rhine

1 into Germany, and he earned a Distinguished Service Cross medal
2 for leading his men in an attack on an enemy strong point; and

3 WHEREAS, Three months after the Battle of the Bulge, Sergeant
4 Funk became his company's First Sergeant; and

5 WHEREAS, First Sergeant Funk was responsible for saving many
6 members of his unit from capture or death at the hands of the
7 Germans in January 1945; and

8 WHEREAS, During the drive to capture Holzheim, Belgium, First
9 Sergeant Funk's 82nd Airborne Division captured more than 80
10 German prisoners; and

11 WHEREAS, For his courageous service in the Ardennes, First
12 Sergeant Funk received the Medal of Honor at the White House in
13 August of 1945 from President Harry Truman; and

14 WHEREAS, First Sergeant Funk's other medals included the
15 Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, three
16 Purple Hearts with two Oak Leaf clusters, the Good Conduct
17 Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation, the American Defense
18 Service Medal, the European Theater of Operations Medal with
19 Arrowhead and four Bronze Campaign Stars, a Combat Infantry
20 Badge, a Parachutist Badge, Chevalier de L'Ordre de Leopold II
21 avec palme, Croix de Guerre avec palme by the Belgium
22 government, Belgium Fourragere, French Fourragere and
23 Netherlands Orange Lanyard; and

24 WHEREAS, First Sergeant Funk was discharged from the Army in
25 June 1945 and returned home to Pennsylvania to work as a clerk;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Two years later First Sergeant Funk went to work for
28 the United States Veterans Administration, where he retired as a
29 Division Chief in the Pittsburgh Regional Office in 1972; and

30 WHEREAS, At the time of his death, First Sergeant Funk was

1 the sole surviving 82nd Airborne Division World War II Medal of
2 Honor recipient; and

3 WHEREAS, First Sergeant Funk passed away on November 27, 1992
4 and now lies at rest in the Arlington National Cemetery; and

5 WHEREAS, First Sergeant Funk epitomized courage and
6 patriotism; and

7 WHEREAS, According to officials at Fort Bragg, First Sergeant
8 Funk is the most decorated hero of World War II, an honor
9 usually ascribed to Audie Murphy, who is listed second to him in
10 decorations; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor First
12 Sergeant of the United States Army, Leonard A. Funk, Jr., for
13 his courage and heroism during World War II.