
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 807 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY EACHUS, BELFANTI, McCALL, D. EVANS, DERMODY, MANN, STURLA, BUXTON, PHILLIPS, GEORGE, DeLUCA, BISHOP, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, DALEY, DONATUCCI, FREEMAN, GEIST, GODSHALL, HENNESSEY, HESS, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, LEVDANSKY, MAHER, MANDERINO, MARKOSEK, McGEEHAN, MICOZZIE, MUNDY, OLIVER, PRESTON, ROEBUCK, SANTONI, STABACK, MATZIE, SIPTROTH, BARBIN, BOYLE, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, D. COSTA, P. COSTA, DEASY, DELOZIER, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, GERGELY, GIBBONS, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HELM, HORNAMAN, KOTIK, KULA, LENTZ, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, McILVAINE SMITH, MILLARD, MURPHY, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PASHINSKI, PAYTON, PETRARCA, READSHAW, REED, SABATINA, SAINATO, SCAVELLO, SEIP, SHAPIRO, M. SMITH, SOLOBAY, VITALI, VULAKOVICH, WAGNER, WATERS, WHITE, YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, MAY 21, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 21, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Bill George, President of the
2 Pennsylvania American Federation of Labor and Congress of
3 Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), for his distinguished
4 service and lifelong commitment to Pennsylvania workers.

5 WHEREAS, At the turn of the 20th century, the American
6 economy had evolved from a mostly agricultural-based economy to
7 an industrialized factory-based economy; and

8 WHEREAS, During that time, most workers labored long hours
9 for low salaries; workers' compensation, health care and
10 retirement benefits did not exist; and many children were forced
11 to work long hours that kept them out of school; and

12 WHEREAS, The early advocates for improved working conditions

1 and the rights of American workers united to demand change; and
2 WHEREAS, As a steelworker, Bill George emerged as a unionist
3 and a vigorous spokesman for the causes of Pennsylvania workers,
4 their families and organized labor, and has been an advocate for
5 equal rights and the dignity of workers for 50 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. George was born and raised in Aliquippa,
7 Pennsylvania, and received his first union card from the United
8 Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1211 in 1960 when he went
9 to work in the open hearth furnace department of the massive
10 Jones & Laughlin Steel; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. George immediately became active in union
12 activities and started his career as a committeeman in the open
13 hearth; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. George began to work his way up the union ranks
15 and was elected as general grievance officer for the membership
16 of Local 1211. In this capacity, Mr. George handled grievances
17 and arbitration for the 11,000 steelworkers of Local 1211; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1971, Mr. George was appointed by former United
19 Steelworkers of America President I. W. Abel to the
20 International Staff of the 15-county USWA District 20
21 headquartered in Baden, Pennsylvania; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. George became the Statewide Secretary-Treasurer
23 of the USWA Legislative Committee in 1985, directing the
24 organization's legislative and education program for five years
25 in Harrisburg; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. George was elected President of the Pennsylvania
27 AFL-CIO along with officers Judith Heh and John Vento in 1990;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. George fought for the causes of the Amalgamated
30 Transit Union (ATU) workers in the Greyhound Strike during the

1 early 1990s, and in 1991 heroically went to jail fighting for
2 the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) workers in the
3 Canonsburg Hospital Strike; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. George is admired by his sisters and brothers in
5 the Pennsylvania labor movement for his courage and commitment
6 to workers and their families; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the years, Mr. George has received numerous
8 awards from various groups and organizations throughout this
9 Commonwealth for his dedication to organized labor; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. George credits his endurance not only to his
11 fellow steelworkers with whom he worked in the open hearth and
12 who stood strong for unity and solidarity, but also to his
13 mother and father, who were forced out of Aliquippa in the 1920s
14 by the Jones & Laughlin Iron and Coal Police for his union
15 activities; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. George credits his older brother, Alex, who
17 served as President of Local 1211, for getting him involved in
18 union politics; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. George is respected by many, including workers,
20 employers and public officials nationwide, for his persistence
21 and dedication in pursuing the rights of workers, whether it be
22 advocating for industrial workers' trade adjustment benefits or
23 public employees' collective bargaining rights, fighting
24 deregulation for utility workers, protecting the prevailing
25 wage, standing up for teachers and public employees or labor
26 organizing in health care and academic institutions; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. George's 50 years of activism, endurance and
28 dedication to workers, their families and organized labor is
29 commendable and worthy of recognition; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize Bill

1 George, President of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, for a lifetime of
2 distinguished service; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor Mr. George
4 on his retirement as president of the AFL-CIO, and thank him for
5 his lifelong commitment to Pennsylvania workers, their families
6 and organized labor; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
8 Bill George at 2603 North Rosegarden Boulevard, Mechanicsburg,
9 PA 17055.