
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 27 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY SANTONI, CALTAGIRONE, MCGEEHAN, BOBACK, B. BOYLE, K. BOYLE, BRENNAN, BROOKS, V. BROWN, BUXTON, CARROLL, CAUSER, CHRISTIANA, CLYMER, COX, DALEY, DEASY, DENLINGER, DeWEESE, DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, HANNA, HARHAI, HARKINS, HARPER, HELM, JOSEPHS, KAVULICH, KILLION, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, MATZIE, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MUNDY, MURT, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PAYTON, PERRY, QUINN, RAPP, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, K. SMITH, SONNEY, STABACK, STURLA, J. TAYLOR, TOEPEL, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, DeLUCA, DELISSIO, GOODMAN, GIBBONS, SAMUELSON, SCHRODER, MARSHALL AND SANTARSIERO, JANUARY 24, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JANUARY 24, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Senator Michael A. O'Pake and extending
2 condolences to his family.

3 WHEREAS, Senator Michael A. O'Pake, who was the longest-
4 serving member of the General Assembly representing his beloved
5 hometown of Reading and Berks County, died on December 27, 2010;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Senator O'Pake was born on February 2, 1940, in
8 Reading and raised in the Glenside public housing project, where
9 he witnessed the challenges of poverty at an early age that
10 would later motivate him to become an advocate for the
11 marginalized and powerless in this Commonwealth; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator O'Pake was valedictorian of Reading Central
2 Catholic High School and earned his bachelor's degree, summa cum
3 laude, from St. Joseph's University before going on to graduate
4 from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law; and

5 WHEREAS, After clerking for the Pennsylvania Superior Court
6 following law school, Senator O'Pake won his first election to
7 the House of Representatives in 1968; and

8 WHEREAS, Following two terms in the House of Representatives,
9 Senator O'Pake was elected to the Senate in 1972 and was
10 overwhelmingly re-elected nine times; and

11 WHEREAS, During a distinguished legislative career that
12 spanned five decades, Senator O'Pake focused especially on
13 serving the needs of children and families, the elderly and the
14 disabled, and he was the author or a principle role-player in
15 the enactment of numerous significant laws that have shaped
16 Pennsylvania in recent decades, including the establishment of
17 the Department of Aging, the adoption of no-fault divorce, the
18 passage of the Children's Protective Services Law and the
19 Protection from Abuse Act, the creation of a property tax and
20 rent rebate for seniors and the disabled and the establishment
21 of the State's landmark Children's Health Insurance Program
22 (CHIP); and

23 WHEREAS, Senator O'Pake was known as a tireless advocate for
24 his community and one of the most visible figures in Reading,
25 often attending a half dozen events in an evening; and

26 WHEREAS, Dedicated to recognizing the special and everyday
27 events of his constituents, Senator O'Pake rarely missed an
28 Eagle Scout ceremony or graduation in any imaginable corner of
29 Berks County, and he was a fixture at Reading Phillies games,
30 where he was deemed to be as much a part of the game as the

1 National Anthem; and

2 WHEREAS, A genuinely good man who lived his life devoted to
3 public service and left an enduring mark on Reading, Berks
4 County and this Commonwealth, Senator O'Pake will be sorely
5 missed; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life of
7 Senator Michael A. O'Pake, express profound sorrow over the loss
8 of this outstanding public servant and extend heartfelt
9 condolences to his family.