

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 356 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY DiGIROLAMO, AUMENT, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, K. BOYLE, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, BROOKS, BROWNLEE, CLYMER, EVERETT, FARRY, FLECK, FREEMAN, GABLER, GEIST, GEORGE, HACKETT, HAHN, HARHART, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, W. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KOTIK, KRIEGER, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, METZGAR, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MIRABITO, MOUL, MULLERY, MURT, MUSTIO, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, SAINATO, SANTARSIERO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, STABACK, STEVENSON, SWANGER, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD AND GROVE, JUNE 28, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE 28, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the U.S.S. *Forrestal* on the occasion of the 44th
 2 anniversary of the onboard fire that nearly resulted in her
 3 loss.

4 WHEREAS, July 29, 2011, marks the occasion of the 44th
 5 anniversary of the fire aboard the U.S.S. *Forrestal*; and

6 WHEREAS, This anniversary will honor all those who were
 7 aboard the U.S.S. *Forrestal*, 44 years ago, on July 29, 1967,
 8 when a devastating fire severely damaged the ship and claimed
 9 the lives of 134 members of her crew, 12 of those service
 10 members being from Pennsylvania; and

11 WHEREAS, Commissioned on October 1, 1955, the U.S.S.
 12 *Forrestal*, which was named for the late Secretary of the Navy
 13 and Secretary of Defense James Vincent Forrestal, compiled an

1 extensive and impressive record of service to the United States
2 of America; and

3 WHEREAS, Inspired by the ship's motto, "First in Defense,"
4 and led by a succession of skilled and capable commanding
5 officers, the crews of the U.S.S. *Forrestal*, throughout the
6 vessel's distinguished history, performed their duties with
7 exemplary dedication and diligence, demonstrating their devotion
8 to their country and their affection for the ship that served
9 them so well; and

10 WHEREAS, On July 29, 1967, the U.S.S. *Forrestal* was
11 conducting operations in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam
12 when an unscheduled missile launch started a large and intense
13 fire that threatened to destroy the ship; and

14 WHEREAS, The officers and crew of the U.S.S. *Forrestal* fought
15 the conflagration with exceptional valor, and 134 men were
16 killed, 12 of those service members being from Pennsylvania,
17 before the fire was extinguished and the ship saved; and

18 WHEREAS, The men who battled to save the U.S.S. *Forrestal* on
19 that fateful day, many of whom tragically lost their lives,
20 provided a lasting example of the highest ideals of courage,
21 loyalty and devotion to duty; and

22 WHEREAS, It is altogether proper and fitting for the General
23 Assembly, upon the occasion of this anniversary, to recognize
24 the U.S.S. *Forrestal* and her many years of superb service to our
25 country and to remember the heroism of all who served aboard the
26 U.S.S. *Forrestal* on July 29, 1967; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the U.S.S.
28 *Forrestal*, salute the outstanding dedication and courage of all
29 who served aboard her during her illustrious career and pay
30 solemn tribute to those who lost their lives on July 29, 1967.