

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 524 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY METCALFE, AUMENT, BAKER, BEAR, BOBACK, BOYD, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, P. COSTA, COX, DALEY, DONATUCCI, ELLIS, EVERETT, FARRY, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HAHN, HARKINS, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HUTCHINSON, F. KELLER, M. K. KELLER, KNOWLES, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARSHALL, MARSICO, METZGAR, MILNE, MURT, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PETRARCA, PYLE, RAPP, READSHAW, REED, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SCAVELLO, CULVER, SCHRODER, SONNEY, STABACK, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, THOMAS, TOOHIL, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, DECEMBER 16, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, DECEMBER 16, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol.

2 WHEREAS, The Civil Air Patrol was founded December 1, 1941,
3 by a fledgling group of volunteers led by civilian pilots who
4 flew their own planes at their own expense to support America's
5 efforts in World War II, primarily by flying reconnaissance
6 missions near the country's coasts to protect cargo ships,
7 especially vital oil tankers, being sunk at an alarming rate;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The Civil Air Patrol, forged by a late-century
10 revolution in search and rescue technology, became known
11 worldwide for its unique emergency services operations by
12 performing vital search and rescue, disaster relief and other

1 important emergency missions for what now numbers more than
2 1,600 communities across the 50 states, as well as the nation's
3 capital and Puerto Rico; and

4 WHEREAS, The Civil Air Patrol, supported by the world's
5 largest fleet of single-engine aircraft equipped with high-tech
6 toolboxes like full-motion video, infrared cameras and glass
7 cockpit aircraft has established itself among the nation's
8 search and rescue elite, now participating in up to 90% of the
9 Air Force's inland search and rescue missions; and

10 WHEREAS, In the past year alone, many of the Civil Air
11 Patrol's professional volunteers, backed by their own experts in
12 cell phone forensics and radar tracking experts, left their
13 families and their homes, often in adverse weather conditions,
14 to participate in 1,016 search and rescue missions in which they
15 were credited with saving 113 lives; and

16 WHEREAS, As a top resource for disaster relief, the Civil Air
17 Patrol is often first on the scene and provides aerial
18 photography and damage assessment to help emergency officials
19 pinpoint critical infrastructure needs in real time as well as
20 ground team support, often provided door to door, which includes
21 water, food and supply delivery and even laundry services for
22 victims; and

23 WHEREAS, Recent high-visibility Civil Air Patrol missions
24 have included:

- 25 (1) responses to tornadoes that ravaged communities
- 26 across America;
- 27 (2) forest fires in numerous states;
- 28 (3) Hawaiian Island and Pacific Coast tsunamis;
- 29 (4) hurricanes Katrina and Ike;
- 30 (5) wildfires in the Southwest and Midwest flooding;

1 (6) responses during 9/11; and
2 (7) counterdrug missions across the nation that have
3 helped remove more than \$1 billion in illegal drugs from our
4 communities;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The aircraft of the Civil Air Patrol were the only
7 nonmilitary planes allowed in the skies over the United States
8 in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks in 2001, and
9 the Civil Air Patrol has since performed admirably in other
10 homeland security missions, including responding to the
11 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, a 118-day
12 continuous effort, by taking tens of thousands of aerial
13 photographs necessary for assessing environmental damage,
14 deploying containment assets and successfully working
15 side-by-side with numerous Federal and state agencies all the
16 while saving the Federal Government between \$22,000,000 to
17 \$28,000,000 for these services; and

18 WHEREAS, The Civil Air Patrol sets the world standard for
19 volunteer aviation emergency services, prompting other nations,
20 like Denmark and the United Kingdom, to use the Civil Air Patrol
21 model to establish or improve their own similar volunteer
22 programs; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
24 70th anniversary of the founding of the Civil Air Patrol.