

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 829 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY GIBBONS, SAINATO, MATZIE, AUMENT, BARBIN, BARRAR, BRADFORD, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, COX, DALEY, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, ELLIS, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FLECK, FRANKEL, GABLER, GEORGE, DERMODY, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HAHN, HENNESSEY, HESS, JAMES, W. KELLER, KIRKLAND, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MANN, McGEEHAN, METZGAR, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MULLERY, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PARKER, PAYNE, PRESTON, QUINN, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, ROSS, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHMOTZER, SONNEY, STABACK, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TOEPEL, VEREB, WATERS, WATSON, WHITE, YOUNGBLOOD, MAJOR AND DEASY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Army Sergeant Leslie Halasz Sabo, Jr.,  
2 posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor.

3 WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor, is  
4 bestowed upon members of the armed forces who have distinguished  
5 themselves above and beyond the call of duty; and

6 WHEREAS, Only 3,458 individuals have been awarded the Medal  
7 of Honor; and

8 WHEREAS, Records show that 379 Pennsylvanians have received  
9 the Medal of Honor and, under Pennsylvania law, have been  
10 remembered with a commemorative marker in Soldiers' Grove; and

11 WHEREAS, Army Sergeant Leslie Halasz Sabo, Jr., an honorable  
12 and distinguished Pennsylvanian from Lawrence County, was

1 posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for valor on May 16,  
2 2012, in addition to receiving numerous other meritorious awards  
3 during his extraordinary military career; and

4 WHEREAS, He was born February 23, 1948, in Austria, the son  
5 of the late Dr. Leslie and Elizabeth Sabo; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1950 he and his family moved to Youngstown, Ohio,  
7 and later to Ellwood City, Pennsylvania; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1966 he graduated from Lincoln High School in  
9 Ellwood City, where he participated in the bowling club and  
10 Spanish club and served in a youth auxiliary for the YMCA, and  
11 later attended Youngstown State University until taking a job at  
12 B&W Steel in 1967; and

13 WHEREAS, In April 1969, Leslie Halasz Sabo, Jr., was drafted  
14 into the army and began devoting his life to the service of his  
15 nation, going to basic training and attending advanced infantry  
16 training at Fort Benning in Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, Upon completing advanced infantry training, he was  
18 assigned to the Second Platoon of the Bravo Company in the 506th  
19 Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, serving as  
20 an Army Specialist; and

21 WHEREAS, On May 1, 1970, 101st Airborne Division was ordered  
22 into Cambodia in an attempt to root out the North Vietnamese  
23 safe havens that were used as a platform for the Tet offensive;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, On May 10, 1970, Bravo Company was on a mission to  
26 find and destroy North Vietnamese bases in Cambodia, and shortly  
27 before noon reached a jungle clearing in the Se San River  
28 Valley, Cambodia; and

29 WHEREAS, North Vietnamese forces, which possessed the  
30 advantage of significantly greater numbers and entrenched

1 position, ambushed the 60 members of Bravo Company, including  
2 Specialist Sabo; and

3 WHEREAS, Specialist Sabo thwarted enemy attempts to surround  
4 Bravo Company before exposing himself to direct enemy fire,  
5 first by throwing himself atop an injured comrade and shielding  
6 him from the explosion of North Vietnamese grenades, and then by  
7 plunging into enemy fire to strip three bandolier-style  
8 ammunition belts from fallen soldiers; and

9 WHEREAS, When a helicopter came to evacuate wounded members  
10 of Bravo Company, Specialist Sabo left his defensive position  
11 and jumped in the line of enemy fire once more to clear the  
12 landing zone, thereby providing the helicopter sufficient time  
13 to evacuate two of his seriously wounded comrades, costing him  
14 his life; and

15 WHEREAS, After these heroic acts Specialist Sabo was  
16 posthumously promoted to sergeant and nominated for the Medal of  
17 Honor; and

18 WHEREAS, Documentation attesting to Sergeant Sabo's heroism  
19 was lost for more than 30 years until its discovery by Alton  
20 Mabb in the National Archives in 2002, and its finding rekindled  
21 efforts to award the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Sabo; and

22 WHEREAS, On May 16, 2012, Sergeant Leslie Halasz Sabo, Jr.,  
23 after 42 years, posthumously received the Medal of Honor, thus  
24 becoming Lawrence County's first Medal of Honor recipient since  
25 the Civil War; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize that  
27 without Sergeant Leslie Halasz Sabo, Jr.'s courage, ability to  
28 inspire others, selfless sacrifice and profound concern for the  
29 welfare of his fellow soldiers, the loss of life in his unit  
30 would have been significantly greater; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor Sergeant  
2 Leslie Halasz Sabo, Jr.'s conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary  
3 heroism and intrepid leadership at the cost of his own life; and  
4 be it further

5       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives duly recognize  
6 Sergeant Leslie Halasz Sabo, Jr.'s heroism and sacrifice, in  
7 keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Army and  
8 going above and beyond the call of duty; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives pay tribute to  
10 Sergeant Leslie Halasz Sabo, Jr., posthumous recipient of the  
11 Medal of Honor, for his brave actions in combat in 1970 and who  
12 is officially granted his rightful place of honor upon the  
13 hallowed grounds in Soldiers' Grove at the State Capitol of this  
14 Commonwealth; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
16 the family of Army Sergeant Leslie Halasz Sabo, Jr.