

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 981 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY EVANKOVICH, ADOLPH, AUMENT, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BROOKS, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DAVIS, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FLECK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GABLER, GIBBONS, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GROVE, HAHN, HARHART, C. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, KNOWLES, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MATZIE, McGEEHAN, MENTZER, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MOUL, MURT, O'NEILL, PETRI, PICKETT, RAPP, READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS, SABATINA, SACCONI, SAYLOR, SIMMONS, SONNEY, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, VEREB, WATSON AND WHITE, MARCH 13, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 13, 2013

AN ACT

1 Designating March 30 of each year as "Welcome Home Vietnam
2 Veterans Day."

3 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

4 (1) The Vietnam Conflict was fought from 1961 to 1975.

5 (2) The United States became involved in the Vietnam
6 Conflict because policymakers in the United States believed
7 that if South Vietnam fell to a Communist government,
8 Communism would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia.

9 (3) In 1965, there were approximately 80,000 United
10 States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of about
11 543,000 troops was reached.

12 (4) More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed
13 Forces lost their lives in the Vietnam Conflict, and more

1 than 300,000 were wounded.

2 (5) According to the Commonwealth's military records,
3 more than 3,400 Pennsylvanians were killed in the Vietnam
4 Conflict and many more were listed as "missing in action."

5 (6) The uniquely divisive nature of the Vietnam Conflict
6 in the context of American history and the crossfire of
7 debate about the country's involvement in the conflict
8 deprived many members of the United States Armed Forces of
9 public support and appreciation for their patriotic service.

10 (7) The bravery and service of our country's Vietnam
11 Conflict veterans should be recognized and honored.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Short title.

15 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Welcome Home
16 Vietnam Veterans Day Act.

17 Section 2. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

18 (a) Designation.--March 30 of each year is designated as
19 "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

20 (b) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a
21 proclamation calling upon all public schools and educational
22 institutions to observe "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" and
23 to conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those
24 involved in the Vietnam Conflict and remembering the sacrifices
25 they made for their country.

26 Section 10. Effective date.

27 This act shall take effect immediately.