
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 388 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, M. DALEY, PARKER, COHEN, BISHOP, KIRKLAND,
LUCAS, DIGIROLAMO, K. BOYLE, HENNESSEY, D. MILLER, THOMAS,
SCHREIBER, O'NEILL, HAGGERTY, MIRANDA, W. KELLER, BROWNLEE,
MIRABITO, MILLARD, VEREB, CALTAGIRONE, KULA, PAINTER,
FRANKEL, READSHAW, KIM, CRUZ, SCHLOSSBERG, BIZZARRO, BARRAR,
HARKINS, FLYNN, MAHONEY, CLAY, YOUNGBLOOD, V. BROWN, NEUMAN,
CARROLL, MCCARTER, NEILSON, MCGEEHAN, SABATINA, WHITE,
DELISSIO, KINSEY, DONATUCCI, ROZZI, MAJOR, MURT, O'BRIEN,
ROEBUCK, ROCK, DAVIS, SNYDER, FABRIZIO, SAMUELSON, WATERS,
QUINN, WATSON, GINGRICH, BRIGGS, TAYLOR, B. BOYLE, J. HARRIS,
MARKOSEK, R. BROWN, SAINATO, TOOHL, D. EVANS, KILLION,
SWANGER, P. DALEY, KORTZ, SCAVELLO, MICOZZIE AND GROVE,
JUNE 24, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 24, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the lives and memory of those tragically killed during
2 a building collapse at 22nd and Market Streets in
3 Philadelphia on June 5, 2013, expressing condolences to their
4 families and concern for those injured in the incident and
5 thanking all emergency workers, first responders and
6 volunteers for their service at the site.

7 WHEREAS, Six people tragically and sadly died in Philadelphia
8 on June 5, 2013, when a four-story building collapsed during
9 demolition work onto a two-story building housing a Salvation
10 Army Thrift Store; and

11 WHEREAS, Thirteen other people sustained injuries from the
12 collapse; and

13 WHEREAS, Those killed and injured in the tragedy all were
14 shopping or working inside the store at the time of the

1 collapse; and

2 WHEREAS, Those who lost their lives in the tragedy include:

3 Anne Bryan, daughter of Philadelphia City Treasurer
4 Nancy Winkler and a student at the Pennsylvania Academy
5 of Fine Arts. Anne's family described her in reports as
6 "an extremely talented artist," who "possessed a passion
7 for the arts and ability to find beauty in everything
8 around her." Anne graduated from the William Penn Charter
9 School in 2007 and majored in painting at the Academy.
10 She had attended Scripps College, did a home stay in
11 rural Ecuador, spoke fluent Spanish, volunteered with
12 Habitat for Humanity and at the Philadelphia Museum of
13 Art and moonlighted as a vegetarian cook.

14 Roseline Conteh, an immigrant from Sierra Leone and a
15 mother who had nine children and three grandchildren. She
16 had moved to Philadelphia ten years ago. She served as a
17 certified nurse's assistant and worked at Broomall
18 Presbyterian Village and Villa St. Joseph in Darby
19 Borough, according to reports. A family member had
20 described Roseline as "very caring, hard-working, always
21 smiling."

22 Borbor Davis, who worked at the Salvation Army Thrift
23 Store for five years. His wife, according to reports,
24 said the Liberian immigrant who came to the United States
25 eight years ago did a variety of jobs at the store, from
26 "tagging used clothes to selling them." His wife said he
27 had just hung up the phone after talking with her just
28 before the collapse happened. She further described him
29 as "kind and polite" and "very loving." She further said
30 that he was "a Christian," who "loved everybody," "never

1 missed a day" at his job and had built up 160 sick days
2 "because he didn't take any." Borbor attended Faith-
3 Immanuel Lutheran Church in East Lansdowne.

4 Kimberly Finnegan, a Salvation Army employee, who,
5 according to reports, was working her first day at the
6 Salvation Army Thrift Store as a cashier. She had just
7 become engaged to her fiancé, Bob Coleman, after his May
8 25 proposal. He said, "She was my best friend." Finnegan
9 had previously been assigned to a Salvation Army
10 rehabilitation center on Ridge Avenue in Roxborough.

11 Juanita Harmon, who, according to reports, was a
12 retired secretary from the University of Pennsylvania and
13 often took her grandchildren to the zoo. Her brother
14 described Juanita as someone who loved ornaments and went
15 to the Salvation Army every Wednesday because "she loved
16 bargains." She is survived by two sons and their
17 families. Neighbors had described how Juanita walked her
18 dog on the block nearly every day.

19 Mary Simpson, a friend of Anne Bryan, who accompanied
20 Ms. Bryan to the thrift store. Reports described Mary as
21 an accomplished figure skater. She graduated from
22 Haverford High School and in 2011 graduated from the New
23 England Institute of Art with a bachelor's degree in
24 audio media technology. She free-lanced at a recording
25 studio and skated at the Philadelphia Skating Club in
26 Ardmore. According to reports, Mary and Anne had met in
27 the third grade at the Friends School in Haverford. Mary
28 and Anne stopped at the store to donate clothes and to
29 spend some time doing one of their favorite activities,
30 thrift store shopping; and

1 WHEREAS, Those identified by the City of Philadelphia as
2 injured in the collapse include: Margarita Agosta, Shirley Ball,
3 Linda Bell, Betty Brown, Rodney Geddis, Felicia Hill, Daniel
4 Johnson, Rosemary Kreutzberg, Myra Plekan, Susan Randall,
5 Jennifer Reynolds, Richard Stasiorowski and Nadine White; and

6 WHEREAS, The sudden and senseless nature of the deaths and
7 injuries and the extensive damage caused by the disaster to a
8 neighborhood and community are shocking and sad to the
9 survivors, witnesses, first responders and emergency workers and
10 to observers near and far; and

11 WHEREAS, Those who responded to the collapse gave aid to
12 those who perished or were injured first and performed an
13 outstanding job in handling the unexpected and catastrophic
14 event; and

15 WHEREAS, Their efforts provided a measure of care and comfort
16 to those affected by the tragedy; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the lives
18 and memory of Anne Bryan, Roseline Conteh, Borbor Davis,
19 Kimberly Finnegan, Juanita Harmon and Mary Simpson and express
20 condolences to their families, friends and loved ones and
21 concern for the 13 people injured in the disaster; and be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives thank, and salute
24 the outstanding response of, all first responders, emergency
25 personnel, volunteers and others who provided assistance at the
26 scene for the honorable, caring and compassionate work and
27 service they provided in the aftermath of the disaster under
28 unanticipated and difficult circumstances; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the
30 various investigations into the collapse and urge all those

1 involved to consider any and all scenarios and circumstances
2 that could have prevented such a tragedy and request that
3 relevant information be shared and reported to the appropriate
4 committees in the House of Representatives for action to prevent
5 similar tragedies from occurring in the future.