
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 382 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MARSHALL, METCALFE, ELLIS, PYLE, JAMES, NESBIT,
BAKER, COHEN, DIGIROLAMO, DUSH, FREEMAN, GREINER, KILLION,
KIRKLAND, KNOWLES, READSHAW, SONNEY, THOMAS, VEREB, MURT,
HENNESSEY, KINSEY, CALTAGIRONE, BENNINGHOFF, DONATUCCI,
ROZZI, MARSICO, HEFFLEY, JOZWIAK, GROVE, O'NEILL, WHEELAND
AND MILLARD, JUNE 8, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 8, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Bantam jeep, invented
2 and originally manufactured in Butler, Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The American Bantam Car Company invented, developed
4 and produced one of the most famous vehicles in the world, the
5 jeep, in Butler, Pennsylvania; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1940, the United States Army issued a challenge
7 to tractor and auto manufacturers to produce a prototype in 49
8 days of a four-wheel drive, 40 horsepower, 1,300 pound
9 reconnaissance car that could haul soldiers as well as heavy
10 artillery; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Bantam Car Company promised to deliver
12 the prototype in only 45 days, and won the Army contract; and

13 WHEREAS, A team composed of Bantam's factory manager, Frank
14 Fenn, former General Motors executive, Arthur Brandt, freelance
15 designer, Karl Probst and a skeleton crew worked together at a

1 frantic pace for nearly seven weeks to design and build the
2 prototype called the Bantam Reconnaissance Car, or BRC; and

3 WHEREAS, Bantam presented the vehicle to the Army at Camp
4 Holabird, Maryland where the Army tested it for 30 days; and

5 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, Bantam could not meet the Army's
6 production demand of 75 vehicles per day; and

7 WHEREAS, The Army gave Bantam's blueprints to Willys-Overland
8 Motors and Ford Motor Company, who went on to produce 600,000
9 jeeps for World War II; and

10 WHEREAS, President Dwight Eisenhower was quoted as saying,
11 "The Jeep, the Dakota airplane, and the landing craft were the
12 three tools that won the war."; and

13 WHEREAS, Bantam produced a total of 2,675 jeeps and then
14 manufactured jeep cargo trailers, torpedo motors and other items
15 until they closed in 1956; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
17 75th anniversary of the Bantam jeep, invented and originally
18 manufactured in Butler, Pennsylvania.