
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 591 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, BISHOP, DIGIROLAMO, COHEN, CALTAGIRONE,
HENNESSEY, KIRKLAND, YOUNGBLOOD, DRISCOLL, JAMES, SNYDER,
KINSEY, WHEATLEY, FREEMAN, MACKENZIE, BRIGGS, VEREB,
D. MILLER, HAHN, MATZIE, ROZZI, MUSTIO, WHEELAND, THOMAS,
MURT, ROEBUCK, BIZZARRO, MARSHALL, D. COSTA, J. HARRIS,
KILLION, DONATUCCI, GINGRICH, KLUNK, A. HARRIS, SAYLOR,
GIBBONS, WATSON, JOZWIAK, MARSICO, BARBIN, READSHAW, PICKETT,
P. DALEY, GROVE, DEASY, PAYNE, SCHWEYER, NEILSON, MAHONEY,
MAJOR, ROSS, SANKEY, FARINA, BRADFORD, DEAN, D. PARKER,
V. BROWN, GAINEY, QUINN, P. COSTA, FABRIZIO, ADOLPH,
RAVENSTAHL, CARROLL, MILLARD, MAHER, MARKOSEK, DAVIS,
GODSHALL, HARHAI, KORTZ, GERGELY, STEPHENS, KIM, ENGLISH,
WARD, PASHINSKI, NEUMAN AND BARRAR, NOVEMBER 18, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 18, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the extraordinary life and dedicated service of Elsie
2 Hillman and expressing condolences on her death.

3 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman, the daughter of Thomas Jones Hilliard
4 and Marianna Talbott Hilliard, was born in Pittsburgh on
5 December 9, 1925; and

6 WHEREAS, Like the title of the recent University of
7 Pittsburgh Institute of Politics' case study about her by
8 Katherine McCauley, "Never a Spectator," implies, Elsie Hillman
9 spent her entire life in service to her community; and

10 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman led by example through her engagement
11 in groundbreaking leadership in public service, showing an
12 extensive and profound commitment to her community; and

1 WHEREAS, Each decade of Elsie Hillman's public life
2 exemplified the ways in which she dedicated her time, energy and
3 resources for the betterment of western Pennsylvania and this
4 entire Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, In the 1940s, during World War II, Elsie Hillman
6 began her volunteer career by cleaning instruments for surgeries
7 at Eye and Ear Hospital in Pittsburgh, selling war bonds and
8 knitting socks for soldiers; and

9 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman went to Westminster Choir College in
10 Princeton, New Jersey, to study piano and voice and met Henry
11 Hillman, a United States Navy pilot originally from Pittsburgh,
12 stationed at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, New York; and

13 WHEREAS, Once married, Henry and Elsie Hillman moved back to
14 Pittsburgh after the end of World War II; and

15 WHEREAS, In the 1950s, Elsie Hillman began her involvement
16 with the Republican Party by volunteering for the Eisenhower for
17 President Campaign and becoming a Republican committee member
18 from the 1st district, 14th ward of the City of Pittsburgh; and

19 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman joined the Board of Trustees of the
20 Ellis School and the Pittsburgh Symphony Society and began
21 volunteering at WQED Public Television; and

22 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman participated in groundbreaking
23 advocacy for religious and interracial inclusion in Pittsburgh's
24 cultural and business community; and

25 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, Elsie Hillman continued her steady
26 involvement in politics by assisting numerous campaigns and
27 committees culminating in her election as chairman of the
28 Republican Committee of Allegheny County in 1967, making her the
29 first female chair of a major political party in an urban
30 environment; and

1 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman became the Vice President of the Urban
2 League of Pittsburgh, joined the Allegheny County Anti-Poverty
3 Advisory Council as assistant treasurer and became the first
4 Protestant to join the all-Catholic Board of Directors at Carlow
5 University; and

6 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman was recognized as the Squirrel Hill
7 Kiwanis "Woman of the Year" Community Service Award winner and
8 received the Wheeler School Award for Community Service; and

9 WHEREAS, In the 1970s, Elsie Hillman chaired several
10 congressional, gubernatorial, Senate and Presidential campaigns
11 in this Commonwealth for John Heinz, Richard Thornburg, Gerald
12 Ford and George H.W. Bush, and was elected to represent
13 Pennsylvania on the Republican National Committee; and

14 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman helped start the Squirrel Hill Urban
15 Coalition, became the Vice President of the Symphony Society and
16 joined the Board of Directors for the Shadyside Hospital
17 Foundation; and

18 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman's unique contributions were recognized
19 by a New Pittsburgh Courier "Top Hat" Award for her work on
20 behalf of minorities and the poor and the Junior Chamber of
21 Commerce Community Service Award; and

22 WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Elsie Hillman served as the cochair
23 for the Pennsylvania campaigns of Presidents Reagan and Bush,
24 Senator Arlen Specter and other Statewide efforts, served as a
25 member of the White House Fellowship Commission and the
26 Presidential Drug Advisory Committee, and provided her unique
27 leadership to the entire nation as the Chair of the Presidential
28 Transition Advisory Committee in 1988 and 1989; and

29 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman also showed unprecedented professional
30 and personal leadership and commitment in health care through

1 her role as the Vice Chairman of the University of Pittsburgh
2 Cancer Institute; her support to the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force;
3 her sponsorship of the "Art for AIDS" auction to benefit the
4 Persad Center, the nation's second oldest mental health center
5 for the LGBT community; and her personal efforts to bring
6 dinners, flowers and comfort to dying AIDS patients during the
7 early years of this disease; and

8 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman's service was recognized by numerous
9 organizations, including, but not limited to, the Sara Frazer
10 Ellis Award from the Ellis School, the W.P. Young Award from the
11 Black Republican Council of Pennsylvania and a Woman of the Year
12 Award from the Pittsburgh chapter of Vector International; and

13 WHEREAS, In the 1990s, Elsie Hillman continued her extensive
14 involvement in the Republican Party, cochairing Presidential and
15 gubernatorial efforts for President Bush and Governor Ridge and
16 representing the United States in the international arena; and

17 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman's civic involvement continued through
18 her efforts to establish the southwestern Pennsylvania chapter
19 of the Interfaith Alliance, the Calvary Episcopal Church
20 Outreach Committee, the establishment of the Elsie Awards for
21 WQED, cochairing the Regional Renaissance Initiative, helping to
22 create the Center for Women in Politics at Chatham College with
23 the Elsie Hilliard Hillman Chair position and becoming the
24 cochairman of the Home Rule Campaign to change the government
25 structure of Allegheny County; and

26 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman received honorary degrees from Carlow
27 University, Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham College,
28 Duquesne University, Point Park University, Robert Morris
29 University, Waynesburg College and Westminster Choir College;
30 and

1 WHEREAS, Since 2000, Elsie Hillman was active in the efforts
2 to elect Governor Corbett, and her contributions to her
3 community seemed to know no limits, championing the Riverlife
4 Task Force, helping create the New Pittsburgh Collaborative,
5 cochairing the Pittsburgh Financial Leadership Committee and
6 helping lead the 2004 "Save Our Summers" campaign that reopened
7 the Pittsburgh's city swimming pools; and

8 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman also helped tens of thousands of
9 families facing the challenge of cancer through her leadership
10 and financial support of the life-saving Hillman Cancer Center
11 in Pittsburgh; and

12 WHEREAS, There have been several salutes to Elsie Hillman's
13 extraordinary life and dedicated service including the Frieda
14 Shapira Medal from the Forbes Fund, the creation of the Elsie
15 Hillman Life Time Civic Achievement Award by the University of
16 Pittsburgh Institute of Politics, the award of the 2013 National
17 Champion from the Dignity and Respect Campaign, the creation of
18 the Elsie H. Hillman Student Award for Public Service by
19 Philadelphia University's Arlen Specter's Center for Public
20 Service, Rider University's Sesquicentennial Medal of Excellence
21 Award and the outstanding lifetime achievement award from the
22 Community College of Allegheny County's Legends in Leadership;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, At the time of her passing on August 4, 2015, at 89
25 years of age, Elsie Hillman was chair of the Elsie H. Hillman
26 Foundation, a trustee of the Hillman Family Foundations, cochair
27 of the UPCI and UPMC Cancer Center Council, and a board member
28 of WQED, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Hill House
29 Association and director emeritus of several more organizations
30 and universities; and

1 WHEREAS, Between her and her family's many other charitable
2 activities, there is an incalculable positive effect on the
3 lives of people who live in western Pennsylvania; and

4 WHEREAS, While Elsie Hillman was a prominent and faithful
5 Republican, she was also a champion of bipartisanship who worked
6 with both political parties to accomplish great things for our
7 region; and

8 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman was a generous philanthropist and
9 activist who strongly advocated for interfaith action, women's
10 rights, the rights of minorities and the rights of the LGBT
11 community; and

12 WHEREAS, Her contributions to her community continue today in
13 the legacy of her leadership and the institutions she helped
14 create and sponsor; and

15 WHEREAS, Elsie Hillman's record of pushing the limits of how
16 much good a single person can do in her lifetime to better her
17 community through public, civic and political involvement is
18 unsurpassed in the history of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the
20 extraordinary life and dedicated service of Elsie Hillman and
21 extend condolences to her family, including her loving husband
22 of 70 years, Henry, children, Lea Simonds, Audrey Fisher, Henry
23 Hillman, Jr., and Bill Hillman, nine grandchildren and fourteen
24 great-grandchildren; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
26 the family of Elsie Hillman.