
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 740 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY SIMMONS, VEREB, O'BRIEN, MILLARD, MURT, O'NEILL, ROZZI, THOMAS, MACKENZIE, DIGIROLAMO, ROTHMAN, KILLION, READSHAW, PASHINSKI, GODSHALL, ROSS, D. COSTA, DRISCOLL, KNOWLES, WATSON, HAHN, BARRAR, SONNEY, DUSH, NEILSON, KINSEY, BULLOCK, STAATS, MAHONEY, A. HARRIS, MARSICO, BENNINGHOFF, HARHART, REGAN AND KIRKLAND, MARCH 21, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 21, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Charles "Chuck" Philip Bednarik, Hall of
2 Fame center and linebacker for the Philadelphia Eagles, and
3 expressing condolences upon his passing.

4 WHEREAS, Charles "Chuck" Philip Bednarik was born on May 1,
5 1925, in Bethlehem; and

6 WHEREAS, After playing high school football, Mr. Bednarik
7 joined the United States Army Air Corps and flew 30 bombing
8 missions over Europe in World War II as a gunner on a B-24
9 Liberator; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Bednarik earned an Air Medal with four oak leaf
11 clusters and five battle stars for his courageous military
12 service; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Bednarik played college football at the
14 University of Pennsylvania, where he was a two-time All-American
15 and earned the Maxwell Award as the nation's most outstanding
16 player; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Bednarik was selected as the first pick by the
2 Philadelphia Eagles in the 1948 National Football League (NFL)
3 draft; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Bednarik was one of the last NFL players to
5 commonly play on both offense and defense; and

6 WHEREAS, Though he earned the nickname "Concrete Charlie" due
7 to his off-season career as a salesman for a concrete company,
8 the nickname also perfectly described his toughness on the
9 football field; and

10 WHEREAS, During his 14 seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles,
11 he won two championships, played in eight Pro Bowls and only
12 missed three games; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Bednarik was inducted to the Pro Football Hall
14 of Fame in 1967, his first year of eligibility, and to the
15 College Football Hall of Fame in 1969; and

16 WHEREAS, The college football defensive player of the year
17 award is named after Mr. Bednarik; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1987, the Philadelphia Eagles honored Mr.
19 Bednarik by retiring his jersey number; and

20 WHEREAS, After his football career, Mr. Bednarik served as
21 chairman of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission;

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Bednarik enjoyed golfing, polka music and
23 playing the harmonica and accordion; and

24 WHEREAS, He was a faithful member of St. Joseph Catholic
25 Church in Coopersburg; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Bednarik passed away on March 21, 2015, at 89
27 years of age in Richland; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Bednarik is survived by his wife of 67 years,
29 Emma; five daughters; 10 grandchildren; and one great-
30 grandchild; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life of
2 Charles "Chuck" Philip Bednarik, Hall of Fame center and
3 linebacker for the Philadelphia Eagles, and express condolences
4 upon his passing; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
6 the family of Mr. Bednarik.