
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 832 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, ADOLPH, BURNS, CORBIN, BAKER, QUIGLEY, WHEELAND, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MILLARD, WARD, WHITE, KAUFFMAN, KILLION, COHEN, TOOHIL, DUSH, SONNEY, PEIFER, KNOWLES, HENNESSEY, VEREB, O'NEILL, STURLA, R. BROWN, THOMAS, ROZZI, BOBACK, ROTHMAN, TOEPEL, REGAN, MILNE, SCHLEGEL, CULVER, GREINER, READSHAW, SACCONI, FARINA, LEWIS, FARRY, COX, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, V. BROWN, D. COSTA, KAVULICH, SANKEY, MUSTIO, O'BRIEN, SNYDER, BENNINGHOFF, DIGIROLAMO, WATSON, MAHONEY, GIBBONS, ROSS, HARHAI, MARSHALL, DIAMOND, PAYNE, PHILLIPS-HILL, HARHART, GODSHALL, FEE, DeLUCA, WARNER, BULLOCK, SAINATO, MARSICO, A. HARRIS, DEASY, HAHN, GOODMAN, SAYLOR, PICKETT, MCGINNIS, MENTZER, ENGLISH, HICKERNELL, KINSEY, MAJOR, GROVE, RAPP, DONATUCCI, GILLEN, CALTAGIRONE, BARRAR, YOUNGBLOOD, MCCLINTON AND NEILSON, APRIL 29, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 29, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring firefighters throughout this
2 Commonwealth for their bravery, dedication and heroism and
3 designating May 4, 2016, as "Firefighters' Day" in
4 Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, In 1736, Benjamin Franklin founded the first
6 volunteer fire company, Union Fire Company, in Philadelphia,
7 making Pennsylvania the birthplace of the volunteer fire service
8 in North America; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has approximately 2,400 fire companies,
10 which amounts to the largest number of fire departments
11 nationally; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania serves as a national leader in the

1 number of career and paid personnel providing emergency
2 services; and

3 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, volunteers staff 95% of all
4 fire companies with more than 50,000 volunteers, representing
5 the largest number of volunteer firefighters in the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, On average, 10 Pennsylvania firefighters die in the
7 line of duty every year; and

8 WHEREAS, Firefighters perform selfless tasks quietly and
9 often without the recognition they deserve, risking their lives
10 daily to protect the lives and property of the residents of this
11 Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, Changes in society and in the environment have
13 increased the dangers these individuals face daily in the
14 performance of their duties as protectors of the residents and
15 property of this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, The increased threat of terrorism, illicit drug labs
17 and hazardous material incidents have placed firefighters in
18 greater danger than ever before in the history of firefighting;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Although Pennsylvania has always depended heavily on
21 its firefighters, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001,
22 and the heightened awareness of future threats have only
23 increased their important role as first responders; and

24 WHEREAS, The time that firefighters devote to protecting the
25 lives and property of the residents of this Commonwealth
26 represents time taken away from their family members; and

27 WHEREAS, May 4 annually serves as "International
28 Firefighters' Day," a worldwide celebration that started in 1999
29 in Australia when a firefighter named J.J. Edmondson, in
30 reaction to a tragic wildfire that claimed the lives of five

1 firefighters, sent an e-mail to his colleagues calling for an
2 international holiday to honor the sacrifices and triumphs of
3 firefighters everywhere; and

4 WHEREAS, Since that time, "International Firefighters' Day"
5 has grown to become a date in which the world's community can
6 stand together to recognize and honor sacrifices made by all
7 firefighters in their efforts to guarantee safety within their
8 communities; and

9 WHEREAS, "International Firefighters' Day" serves as a time
10 to thank current and past firefighters for their contributions
11 and to remember those men and women who have made the ultimate
12 sacrifice to save and protect lives in their neighborhoods;
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
15 honor the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters in this
16 Commonwealth, extend thanks for their service and, on the
17 occasion of "International Firefighters' Day," designate May 4,
18 2016, as "Firefighters' Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all members
20 of the General Assembly and elected officials and residents
21 across this Commonwealth to make efforts to honor and remember
22 firefighters in Pennsylvania for their dedication, service and
23 sacrifice, including the giving of their lives, in order to
24 protect the lives and property of the residents of this
25 Commonwealth; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That such efforts may include wearing and
27 displaying blue and red ribbons pinned together, participating
28 in a memorial or recognition event, rising together in a public
29 meeting or gathering in honor of the sacrifices of firefighters
30 or by pausing for a minute at noon on the first Sunday in May as

1 a sign of gratitude for their service.