
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1084 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA AND GILLEN, OCTOBER 18, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 18, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of legendary golfer Arnold Palmer
2 and expressing condolences on his passing.

3 WHEREAS, Arnold Palmer was born September 10, 1929, in
4 Latrobe, Pennsylvania; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer first learned to golf from his father,
6 Deacon Palmer; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer received a golf scholarship to attend
8 Wake Forest University, though he enlisted in the Coast Guard
9 before graduating from the university; and

10 WHEREAS, After serving in the Coast Guard for three years,
11 Mr. Palmer participated in and won the 1954 United States
12 Amateur tournament, which led to him competing in the 1955
13 United States Professional Tour; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1958, Mr. Palmer won the Masters Tournament and
15 began to bring attention to the sport and also developed a golf
16 rivalry with his friends Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player; and

17 WHEREAS, Between 1958 and 1964, Mr. Palmer won seven major
18 championships, attracted many new fans, gave status to some

1 lesser-known courses and became a household name; and

2 WHEREAS, During his career from 1946 to 2005, Mr. Palmer
3 attained a total of 26 wins as an amateur golfer and 95 wins as
4 a professional golfer; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer was awarded the Presidential Medal of
6 Freedom in 2004 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2009; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer was a member of the Freemasons since 1958
8 and held the position of Master Mason at Loyalhanna Lodge No.
9 275 in Latrobe, Pennsylvania; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1971, Mr. Palmer bought the Latrobe Country Club,
11 where his father worked and Mr. Palmer first learned the sport;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Though Mr. Palmer is best known for his golf game,
14 he was an avid pilot and spent nearly 55 years learning and
15 perfecting his skills and logging nearly 20,000 hours in the
16 cockpit; and

17 WHEREAS, The airport he spent much of his time flying to and
18 from was named the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in 1999; and

19 WHEREAS, After his retirement from golf, Mr. Palmer
20 frequently split his time between Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and La
21 Quinta, California; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer had diverse, golf-based business
23 interests and was involved in a wide variety of other ventures,
24 from establishing the first golf course in China to marketing
25 his signature drink, a mix of equal parts lemonade and tea, to
26 launching the Golf Channel; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer was married to Winnie Palmer for 45 years
28 until her death in 1999, and he remarried in 2005 to Kathleen
29 Gawthrop; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer died in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on

1 September 25, 2016, at 87 years of age; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer is survived by his wife, two daughters,
3 Peggy Wears and Amy Saunders, two sisters, Lois Jean Tilley and
4 Sandra Sarni, and a brother, Jerry, as well as six grandchildren
5 and several great-grandchildren; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
7 and legacy of legendary golfer Arnold Palmer and express
8 condolences on his passing; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
10 his family.