
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 181 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, DINNIMAN, KITCHEN, SABATINA, TARTAGLIONE,
GREENLEAF, MENSCH, COSTA, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, FONTANA,
RAFFERTY, VULAKOVICH AND YUDICHAK, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing September 21, 2015, as "International Day of Peace"
2 and supporting the ideals observed at this worldwide event.

3 WHEREAS, The ideal of peace encompasses the deepest hopes of
4 all peoples and remains humanity's guiding inspiration; and

5 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth was founded by William Penn on the
6 principles of peace, freedom and equality; and

7 WHEREAS, The United Nations believes in this same vision and
8 works to promote the ideals and principles of peace and human
9 rights across the globe; and

10 WHEREAS, The United Nations' "International Day of Peace,"
11 established in 1981, offers an annual opportunity on September
12 21 for countries, cities, states, communities and individuals to
13 "commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace within and among
14 all nations and peoples"; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2001, the United Nations unanimously established
16 the "International Day of Peace" on September 21 to be observed
17 each year in promotion of global ceasefire and nonviolence; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2009, the United States Senate passed Senate
2 Resolution No. 274 (2009), a resolution expressing its support
3 for the goals and ideals celebrated on "Peace Day" and for
4 "continuing efforts to raise global awareness of the goals of
5 'Peace Day' and to engage all sectors of society in the peaceful
6 observance of the 'International Day of Peace'"; and

7 WHEREAS, On September 21, 2015, people in cities across the
8 world come together through diverse peace education activities,
9 nonviolent skill building, music, marches, spiritual activities,
10 arts projects, community events, environmental efforts and
11 intercultural dialogues, all for the purpose of forwarding a
12 culture of peace; and

13 WHEREAS, "International Day of Peace" observances are wide
14 ranging, with many organizations and cities across this
15 Commonwealth, from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, creating
16 practical acts of peace for our citizens to further understand
17 and actively participate in a movement of nonviolence; and

18 WHEREAS, Peace Day Philly, a Philadelphia-region initiative
19 that encourages broad-based participation in the "International
20 Day of Peace," calls upon all public officials, organizations,
21 neighborhoods, community groups and individuals to actively
22 engage in this global day of local opportunity; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2014, more than 30 diverse peace-related events
24 took place across the region from September 15 through September
25 21, and additional peace, community-building, safety and youth
26 activities were organized in neighborhoods across the city by
27 the Philadelphia Police Department; and

28 WHEREAS, On September 21 at 12 noon in all time zones, people
29 of all nationalities and religions will observe a minute of
30 silence for peace; and

1 WHEREAS, The United Nations' global theme for "International
2 Day of Peace" 2015 is "Partnerships for Peace - Dignity for
3 All"; and

4 WHEREAS, This global theme recognizes the essential role that
5 civil society and nongovernmental organizations have played in
6 the United Nations' peace-building activities and the work of
7 the United Nations for more than 70 years to promote and create
8 conditions for universal human rights and dignity for all
9 people; and

10 WHEREAS, The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
11 called upon, in his 100-day countdown statement, for "the people
12 of the world to reaffirm their commitment to living in harmony
13 as members of a single human family" and for citizens to "stand
14 with the millions of people across the world who are suffering
15 the devastating impact of violence and conflict"; and

16 WHEREAS, Conflict resolution and transformation, mediation,
17 mindfulness training and many other skill-based aspects of peace
18 education, as well as intercultural dialogue and other forms of
19 diversity and global awareness activities, are critical to the
20 development of peace-building skills and global citizenship
21 among children and youth; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize September 21, 2015, as
23 "International Day of Peace" and express its support for the
24 goals and ideals celebrated worldwide on September 21, 2015, and
25 encourage and commend all residents of this Commonwealth who
26 actively promote and participate in diverse peace, nonviolence
27 and unity-building activities in observance of the
28 "International Day of Peace."