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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1471 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIANA, COX, DRISCOLL, JAMES, MENTZER, MURT,  
SACCONE, SOLOMON, QUIGLEY AND GILLEN, MAY 31, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, MAY 31, 2017

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 28, 1953 (P.L.723, No.230), entitled,  
2 as amended, "An act relating to counties of the second class  
3 and second class A; amending, revising, consolidating and  
4 changing the laws relating thereto," in special powers and  
5 duties of the county, further providing for flags to decorate  
6 graves.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 2122 of the act of July 28, 1953  
10 (P.L.723, No.230), known as the Second Class County Code, is  
11 amended to read:

12 Section 2122. Flags to Decorate Graves.--(a) It shall be  
13 the duty of the county commissioners to provide flags on each  
14 Memorial Day with which to decorate the graves of all deceased  
15 service persons and the graves of all other deceased persons who  
16 served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard,  
17 Merchant Marine during World War II or any organization  
18 officially connected therewith and whose separation from such  
19 service was honorable, whether by discharge or otherwise, buried

1 within the county. The flags to be used for said purposes shall  
2 be of one standard size, and shall be purchased at the expense  
3 of the county from moneys in the county treasury. The flags  
4 shall be provided in accordance with the following:

5 (1) The authorities in charge of any cemetery are authorized  
6 to remove such flags, when the same become unsightly or weather-  
7 worn, at any time not less than thirty days after the flags have  
8 been placed on graves along with notification to the respective  
9 county director of veterans' affairs for a replacement flag.

10 (2) A family member of a person whose grave is decorated  
11 with a flag for the purpose of Memorial Day by the county is  
12 granted permission to take and keep the flag after the first  
13 working day after the Fourth of July. A cemetery shall contact  
14 the county no less than thirty days after taking down the flags  
15 annually for collection by the county.

16 (3) In addition to the powers and duties granted to local  
17 code enforcement officers, a local code enforcement officer may  
18 inspect local cemeteries for violations of this section and  
19 report any violation to a county director of veterans' affairs.

20 (4) Counties may coordinate with local veterans' service  
21 organizations to ensure that cemeteries are in compliance with  
22 the provisions of this section.

23 (b) Such flags shall be furnished to the various veterans'  
24 organizations in such numbers as they shall require for their  
25 respective communities.

26 (c) The moneys expended by any county under the provisions  
27 of this section shall be in addition to moneys appropriated by  
28 the county for Memorial Day purposes.

29 [(d) The authorities in charge of any cemetery are  
30 authorized to remove such flags when the same become unsightly

1 or weatherworn at any time not less than ninety days after the  
2 flags have been placed on graves.]

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.