
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 498 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, GOODMAN, BARRAR, BARBIN, DIGIROLAMO,
ENGLISH, JAMES, DEASY, DONATUCCI, GAINNEY, LONGIETTI, NEILSON,
BIZZARRO, MILLARD, BOBACK, KINSEY, O'NEILL, DAVIS,
CALTAGIRONE, FLYNN, WARD, PASHINSKI, BERNSTINE, R. BROWN,
RAVENSTAHL, MULLERY, ROZZI AND MENTZER, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the continuing work of the Veterans Courts in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, With more than 1 million veterans in Pennsylvania,
4 the Supreme Court recognized a need for a problem solving court
5 to address the unique issues involving Pennsylvania's veterans;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Veterans Courts are designed to assist veterans
8 charged with crimes who are struggling with addiction, mental
9 illness or co-occurring disorders and come in contact with the
10 criminal justice system; and

11 WHEREAS, Veterans Courts connect veterans with services,
12 benefits and program providers to ultimately reduce recidivism
13 among military veterans; and

14 WHEREAS, Veterans involved in Veterans Courts receive support
15 and guidance from veteran mentors, are supervised by specialized
16 probation officers and receive treatment and support from the

1 Veterans Administration to address underlying problems often
2 caused by posttraumatic stress disorder; and

3 WHEREAS, The first Veterans Court in Pennsylvania opened in
4 Lackawanna County in 2009; and

5 WHEREAS, Veterans Courts are now located in 20 counties
6 within Pennsylvania; and

7 WHEREAS, Working with the Administrative Office of
8 Pennsylvania Courts, the Veterans Administration and the
9 Statewide Veterans Justice Partnership Task Force, the Supreme
10 Court has advanced the concept and implementation of the
11 Veterans Judicial Courts; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania continues to innovate and implement the
13 Veterans Court system by working with the National Center for
14 State Courts to develop performance measures for Commonwealth
15 Veterans Treatment Courts that may also be used as a nationwide
16 resource; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the
18 continuing work of the Veterans Courts in Pennsylvania; and be
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That, in honoring this work, we raise awareness of
21 the efforts of the Veterans Courts in Pennsylvania to provide
22 comprehensive treatment, resources and support with the goals of
23 encouraging rehabilitation and reducing recidivism among
24 Pennsylvania's large military veteran population.