

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 590 Session of  
2017

---

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, READSHAW, DEAN, HENNESSEY, J. HARRIS,  
DIGIROLAMO, YOUNGBLOOD, ROTHMAN, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL,  
SCHLOSSBERG, MACKENZIE, REESE, THOMAS, SOLOMON, RYAN,  
SAINATO, KIM, MURT, MENTZER, DUSH, SONNEY, HEFFLEY, WATSON,  
LONGIETTI, KAVULICH, COX, CALTAGIRONE, SCHWEYER, MILLARD,  
ROEBUCK, EVERETT, BRADFORD, WARREN, B. MILLER AND GOODMAN,  
NOVEMBER 1, 2017

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
NOVEMBER 1, 2017

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 5 through 11, 2017, as  
2 "Veterans Week of Service" in Pennsylvania to coincide with  
3 the annual Veterans Day observance on November 11, 2017.

4 WHEREAS, Tens of millions of Americans have served in the  
5 United States Armed Forces since the battles of Lexington and  
6 Concord, which kicked off the American Revolutionary War or the  
7 War of Independence, in 1775; and

8 WHEREAS, The past and present sacrifices of each generation  
9 of American men and women who served in the armed forces and the  
10 hundreds of thousands who gave their lives to preserve our  
11 democracy must and should be recognized and honored by all  
12 citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed  
14 November 11 as Armistice Day to honor veterans who fought in  
15 World War I and to commemorate the implementation of an

1 armistice between the Allies and Germany at the 11th hour on the  
2 11th day of November; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed  
4 legislation which changed the name of Armistice Day to Veterans  
5 Day; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1968, Congress passed legislation that  
7 established the fourth Monday in October as the day to  
8 commemorate and honor the military service of generations of  
9 American veterans; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1978, Congress again passed legislation that  
11 reverted the national observance of Veterans Day back to  
12 November 11; and

13 WHEREAS, Not unlike past generations of American veterans,  
14 some contemporary members of our armed forces encounter unique  
15 and difficult circumstances when transitioning from military to  
16 civilian life; and

17 WHEREAS, To meet the unique needs of Vietnam-era veterans and  
18 service members returning from deployment in the Middle East,  
19 especially Iraq and Afghanistan, some veterans continue to lead  
20 and serve through the establishment of charitable organizations;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, In 1982, a group of Vietnam-era veterans in  
23 southwestern Pennsylvania established the Vietnam Veterans  
24 Leadership Program; and

25 WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program was a job  
26 placement and training program for veterans who faced difficulty  
27 finding employment during the economic downturn of the 1980s;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is now the  
30 Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania; and

1       WHEREAS, The primary mission of the Veterans Leadership  
2 Program of Western Pennsylvania is to provide essential housing,  
3 employment, education and training assistance, supportive  
4 services, qualified referrals and case management services to  
5 all eligible veterans of western Pennsylvania, service members  
6 and their families with the goal of improving their self-  
7 sufficiency, sustainability and quality of life; and

8       WHEREAS, The Veterans Leadership Program also provides a  
9 Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, a Federal program that  
10 serves homeless veterans with employment and training  
11 assistance; and

12       WHEREAS, The board of directors of the Veterans Leadership  
13 Program of Western Pennsylvania include veterans of the Army,  
14 Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Air National Guard; and

15       WHEREAS, Western Pennsylvania is the home of more than  
16 260,000 veterans, one of the largest concentration of veterans  
17 in the United States; and

18       WHEREAS, According to the latest data, the veterans  
19 population in this Commonwealth totals more than 870,770  
20 veterans; and

21       WHEREAS, In southeastern Pennsylvania, the Greater  
22 Philadelphia Veterans Network (GPVN) was established in 2010 by  
23 a network of veterans working in different industries to mentor  
24 and empower veterans living in southeastern Pennsylvania,  
25 southern New Jersey and Delaware; and

26       WHEREAS, The primary mission of the GPVN is:

27           (1) to assist veterans, National Guard and reservists to  
28 find work through career service, programs and initiatives,  
29 mentorships, networking and job leads;

30           (2) to educate employers in the greater Philadelphia

1 area on how to hire local veterans; and

2 (3) to offer veteran professional leadership and veteran  
3 entrepreneurship programs;

4 and

5 WHEREAS, As a nonprofit veterans service organization, the  
6 GPVN is known as an organization that inspires, empowers, and  
7 demands accountability from all veterans it works with; and

8 WHEREAS, The work of GPVN is reflected in its tagline "Our  
9 Tools, Your Mission"; and

10 WHEREAS, The Veterans Leadership Program of Western  
11 Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia Veterans Network are  
12 just two examples of organizations in this Commonwealth and  
13 nationwide that were established by veterans to help veterans  
14 and as an extension of their legacy of service; and

15 WHEREAS, The recognition of Veterans Day gives Americans the  
16 opportunity to thank veterans for their service and recognize  
17 their dedication to preserving our freedoms and democracy; and

18 WHEREAS, Our annual commemoration of Veterans Day still  
19 embodies the original purpose of President Woodrow Wilson's  
20 official Armistice Day proclamation in November 1919, as a day  
21 of reflection "to be filled with the solemn pride in the heroism  
22 of those who died in the country's service"; and

23 WHEREAS, Veterans serving veterans, inherent in the work of  
24 organizations like the Veterans Leadership Program of Western  
25 Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia Veterans Network,  
26 evidences the willingness of some veterans to continue to lead  
27 and answer the call of service to our country, communities and  
28 their peers; and

29 WHEREAS, These organizations should be honored and recognized  
30 for their efforts to improve the quality of life of veterans in

1 this Commonwealth; therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
3 week of November 5 through 11, 2017, as "Veterans Week of  
4 Service" in Pennsylvania to coincide with the annual Veterans  
5 Day observance on November 11, 2017; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
7 residents of this Commonwealth to commemorate Veterans Day with  
8 solemn but thankful reflection on the sacrifices and  
9 contributions of all veterans and the legacy of service many  
10 veterans continue to make to country, community and peers in  
11 this Commonwealth and nationwide; and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
13 the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.