
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 613 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY WARREN, DEAN, THOMAS, HENNESSEY, DRISCOLL,
MILLARD, DIGIROLAMO, LONGIETTI, DUSH, SONNEY, NEILSON,
KINSEY, READSHAW, KIRKLAND AND SCHLOSSBERG, NOVEMBER 20, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 20, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing December 10, 2017, as "Worldwide Candle Lighting
2 Day" in Pennsylvania and commemorating the work of The
3 Compassionate Friends.

4 WHEREAS, "Worldwide Candle Lighting Day" started in 1997 by a
5 group called The Compassionate Friends as a small Internet
6 observance to honor the memories of deceased sons, daughters,
7 brothers, sisters and grandchildren; and

8 WHEREAS, "Worldwide Candle Lighting Day" is held on the
9 second Sunday in December every year and 2017 marks the 21st
10 annual "Worldwide Candle Lighting Day"; and

11 WHEREAS, During "Worldwide Candle Lighting Day," hundreds of
12 formal candle lighting events are held and thousands of informal
13 candle lightings are conducted in homes in quiet remembrance of
14 children who have died; and

15 WHEREAS, "Worldwide Candle Lighting Day" is now believed to
16 be the largest mass candle lighting in the world; and

17 WHEREAS, The Compassionate Friends, the organization that

1 started "Worldwide Candle Lighting Day," was founded in England
2 more than 40 years ago with the purpose of providing comfort,
3 hope and support to families experiencing the death of a son or
4 daughter, brother or sister or a grandchild; and

5 WHEREAS, The Compassionate Friends publishes materials on how
6 to handle grief following the death of a child and engages
7 bereaved families through social media and an online support
8 community; and

9 WHEREAS, The first chapter of The Compassionate Friends in
10 the United States was established in 1972 and incorporated in
11 1978 in Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, The Compassionate Friends has since grown to nearly
13 700 chapters serving all 50 states, as well as Washington, DC,
14 Puerto Rico and Guam, and also has a presence in more than 30
15 countries; and

16 WHEREAS, For four decades The Compassionate Friends has
17 provided peer support to bereaved families when it is most
18 needed; and

19 WHEREAS, Participating in "Worldwide Candle Lighting Day" is
20 a way for families who have lost a child to show that they will
21 always be loved and never forgotten; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
23 December 10, 2017, as "Worldwide Candle Lighting Day" in
24 Pennsylvania and commemorate the work of The Compassionate
25 Friends.