

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 539 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, BREWSTER, SCHWANK,
COSTA, KILLION, MENSCH, AUMENT, SABATINA AND YUDICHAK,
MARCH 24, 2017

SENATOR FOLMER, STATE GOVERNMENT, AS AMENDED, APRIL 25, 2017

AN ACT

1 Providing for the preservation and maintenance of the
2 Pennsylvania State area portion of the Medal of Honor Grove
3 in Schuylkill Township, Chester County.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Medal of
8 Honor Grove Act.

9 Section 2. Findings.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) The 52-acre Freedom Foundation's Medal of Honor
12 Grove in Schuylkill Township, Chester County, is the nation's
13 oldest memorial site dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients.
14 The site was dedicated October 1, 1964, through the work of
15 President Dwight D. Eisenhower and General Omar Bradley,
16 among others. It honors our nation's Medal of Honor
17 recipients.

18 (2) The Medal of Honor is our nation's highest military

1 honor. Since its inception in 1862, it has been bestowed upon
2 346 Pennsylvanians and 3,498 individuals who attained
3 distinction through "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at
4 the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while
5 engaged in the action against an enemy of the United States."

6 (3) The 52-acre grove is divided into one-acre plots
7 dedicated to each state in addition to the District of
8 Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

9 (4) It is essential that the Commonwealth recognize and
10 preserve the Pennsylvania State area of the Medal of Honor
11 Grove and the individuals it represents so that their heroism
12 and service are never forgotten.

13 Section 3. Duties of the Department of ~~General Services~~ <--

14 MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS. <--

15 The Department of ~~General Services~~ MILITARY AND VETERANS <--
16 AFFAIRS shall provide for the maintenance of the Pennsylvania
17 State area portion of the Medal of Honor Grove in Schuylkill
18 Township, Chester County.

19 Section 4. Contract for services.

20 The Department of ~~General Services~~ MILITARY AND VETERANS <--
21 AFFAIRS may contract with an organization that maintains any
22 portion of the grounds of the Medal of Honor Grove to provide
23 the following services for the Pennsylvania State area portion
24 of the Medal of Honor Grove:

25 (1) Arranging for the fabrication and installation of
26 new ground plaques for new Medal of Honor recipients.

27 (2) Engraving new Medal of Honor recipient names on the
28 State obelisk.

29 (3) Restoring or replacing any American, Commonwealth or
30 military flags.

1 (4) Maintaining the landscape, trees, ground plaques,
2 State obelisk and flag poles.
3 Section 5. Effective date.
4 This act shall take effect in 60 days.