
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 144 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, ARGALL, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER,
BROWNE, COSTA, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, FONTANA, GORDNER,
GREENLEAF, KILLION, MARTIN, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER,
SCAVELLO, WARD, WHITE AND YUDICHAK, JUNE 14, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 14, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 14, 2017, as "National Flag Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On June 14, 2017, Americans will observe the 240th
4 anniversary of the flag of the United States of America; and

5 WHEREAS, This special day provides a time for the residents
6 of this Commonwealth to reflect on the rich history of our
7 nation's flag and its meaning to Americans and people around the
8 world; and

9 WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America are deeply committed to
10 preserving the American tradition of honoring "National Flag
11 Day"; and

12 WHEREAS, The Continental Congress adopted the Stars and
13 Stripes as the official flag of the United States on June 14,
14 1777; and

15 WHEREAS, Describing the new flag, the Congress wrote, "White
16 signifies Purity and Innocence; Red, Hardiness and Valor; Blue
17 signifies Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice"; and

1 WHEREAS, Over time, the flag's design evolved to keep pace
2 with our nation's development and growth, but its meaning as a
3 symbol of democracy and freedom has remained constant; and

4 WHEREAS, Flag Day was first celebrated throughout the country
5 in 1877; and

6 WHEREAS, As so often happens in our communities, a caring
7 teacher encouraging students to develop a love for learning was
8 the person who sparked renewed interest in the flag; and

9 WHEREAS, Wisconsin school teacher B.J. Cigrand arranged for
10 his pupils in 1885 to observe the 108th anniversary of the
11 flag's official adoption; and

12 WHEREAS, In magazine and newspaper articles and public
13 addresses in the following years, Cigrand promoted an official
14 national celebration of June 14 as Flag Birthday or Flag Day;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Groups in Pennsylvania, New York and Illinois took
17 up the cause, and after three decades of state and local
18 celebrations, President Woodrow Wilson officially established
19 Flag Day by proclamation in 1916; and

20 WHEREAS, During World War II, Americans looked to the purity,
21 hardiness, valor, vigilance, perseverance and justice
22 represented by the flag as ideals worthy of the ultimate
23 sacrifice in order to defeat tyranny; and

24 WHEREAS, In celebration of the flag's powerful meaning to
25 Americans and its place in our culture and history, Flag Day
26 became a national observance by an act of Congress in 1949 and
27 signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

28 WHEREAS, On August 3, 1949, to commemorate the adoption of
29 the United States flag, Congress, by joint resolution,
30 designated June 14 of each year as Flag Day and requested the

1 president to issue an annual proclamation calling for a national
2 observance and for the display of the flag of the United States
3 on all Federal Government buildings; and

4 WHEREAS, In a second joint resolution approved June 9, 1966,
5 Congress requested the president to annually issue a
6 proclamation designating the week during which June 14 falls as
7 "National Flag Week" and called upon all citizens of the United
8 States to display the flag during that week; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize June 14, 2017, as
10 "National Flag Day" in Pennsylvania.