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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 208 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY REGAN, SCARNATI, GORDNER, ALLOWAY, ARGALL,  
LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, McILHINNEY, RESCHENTHALER, SCAVELLO,  
STEFANO, WARD, WHITE AND YAW, OCTOBER 4, 2017

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 4, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Reaffirming the historical and symbolic significance of the flag  
2 and national anthem of the United States of America;  
3 referencing federally prescribed standards for conduct during  
4 a rendition of the national anthem when the flag is  
5 displayed; and expressing the prevailing sentiment of the  
6 Senate of Pennsylvania.

7 WHEREAS, The Second Continental Congress, meeting in  
8 Philadelphia, adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag  
9 of the United States on June 14, 1777; and

10 WHEREAS, The American flag has endured for more than two  
11 centuries as a sacred symbol of our nation's history and ideals;  
12 and

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

16 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a proud legacy of reverence  
17 for the flag of the United States, becoming the first state to  
18 celebrate Flag Day as an official State holiday on June 14,  
19 1937; and

1       WHEREAS, In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a  
2 proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day and  
3 in August 1946, National Flag Day was established by an act of  
4 Congress; and

5       WHEREAS, Over 1.3 million brave American men and women have  
6 perished fighting in defense of the flag of the United States;  
7 and

8       WHEREAS, Under 36 U.S.C. § 301(a), "the composition  
9 consisting of the words and music known as the Star-Spangled  
10 Banner is the national anthem"; and

11       WHEREAS, The Star-Spangled Banner became the national anthem  
12 of the United States by a resolution of Congress on March 3,  
13 1931; and

14       WHEREAS, The words of the Star-Spangled Banner were written  
15 by Francis Scott Key after witnessing an American triumph over  
16 British military forces attacking Fort McHenry, Baltimore, in  
17 September 1814; and

18       WHEREAS, The performance of the national anthem is intended  
19 to convey national unity and patriotism; and

20       WHEREAS, Appropriate conduct during the national anthem is  
21 prescribed in Federal statute; and

22       WHEREAS, 36 U.S.C. § 301(b)(1)(C) states that during a  
23 rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed,  
24 nonmilitary individuals "should face the flag and stand at  
25 attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in  
26 uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their  
27 right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over  
28 the heart"; therefore be it

29       RESOLVED, That the Senate express the prevailing sentiment  
30 that the flag and national anthem of the United States of

1 America, both being objects of sacred historical and cultural  
2 significance, should be shown appropriate reverence; and be it  
3 further

4       RESOLVED, That appropriate conduct during the national  
5 anthem, being prescribed in Federal statute, should be adhered  
6 to by American citizens; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
8 the Commissioner of the National Football League and to the  
9 owners of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles  
10 football franchises.