
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 419 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY SCARNATI, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Stephen C. MacNett.

2 WHEREAS, Stephen C. MacNett (Steve), who dedicated more than
3 44 years of public service to the Senate, the General Assembly
4 and the government and residents of our great Commonwealth, died
5 on September 18, 2018, at 71 years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Troy, Pennsylvania, to the late Stephen D.
7 and Huldah B. MacNett, and raised on his family's farm in
8 Bradford County, Steve learned the value of hard, honest work;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Steve graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle,
11 Pennsylvania, where he served as the vice chairman of the campus
12 Young Republicans; and

13 WHEREAS, Steve began to work in the Senate on November 1,
14 1966, as a page and continued in that position until his
15 graduation in 1971 from the Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Upon admission to the bar of the Supreme Court of
18 Pennsylvania, Steve began a long career as an attorney with the

1 Senate Republican Caucus as Assistant Counsel, Deputy Chief
2 Counsel and Chief Counsel; and

3 WHEREAS, Steve was named to the position of General Counsel
4 for the Senate Republican Caucus in 1977 and held that position
5 until his retirement on January 7, 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, Steve's legislative career spanned the
7 administrations of Governors William Scranton, Raymond Shafer,
8 Milton Shapp, Dick Thornburgh, Bob Casey, Tom Ridge, Mark
9 Schweiker and Ed Rendell; and

10 WHEREAS, Steve worked for Senate Republican leaders Robert D.
11 Fleming, Richard Frame, Henry G. Hager, Robert C. Jubelirer,
12 John Stauffer, F. Joseph Loeper, David J. "Chip" Brightbill and
13 Dominic F. Pileggi; and

14 WHEREAS, Steve was responsible for the supervision of legal
15 services to the Republican members of the Senate, including
16 drafting, review and analysis of legislation; and

17 WHEREAS, Steve's knowledge of legislative and parliamentary
18 procedure was exceptional and his uncanny ability to remember
19 legislative history was legendary; and

20 WHEREAS, Steve's skill in developing legislative strategy was
21 second to none; and

22 WHEREAS, Steve oversaw litigation involving the Senate
23 Republican Caucus, the Senate as an institution and, from time
24 to time, the entire General Assembly; and

25 WHEREAS, Steve was at the center of every major legislative
26 accomplishment during his career in the Senate; and

27 WHEREAS, Steve served as a teacher and mentor to countless
28 other staff members in the Senate, sharing his knowledge
29 generously and becoming known as "Master Jedi"; and

30 WHEREAS, Steve's counsel was sought out by legislators and

1 other public officers and public employees from all branches of
2 State and local government and all political parties, as well as
3 by lobbyists and members of the media because of his incredible
4 knowledge of the Senate, the Constitution of Pennsylvania,
5 statutory law and important dates and historical milestones in
6 Pennsylvania State Government; and

7 WHEREAS, Steve earned the respect of all who participated in
8 the legislative process, regardless of their political
9 affiliation, their ideological principles or their advocated
10 positions; and

11 WHEREAS, Since his passing, Steve has been described by those
12 who knew him as "brilliant," "dedicated," "a scholar," "a true
13 giant," "an icon," "one of the most powerful people in State
14 government," "a good and fair man," "honorable," "honest" and "a
15 legend," among many other complimentary superlatives; and

16 WHEREAS, Steve was the recipient of the William E. Zeiter
17 Award for Exceptional Contributions to Statutory Law in the
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, presented by the Statutory Law
19 Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; and

20 WHEREAS, Through his knowledge and counsel, Steve earned the
21 title as "The 51st Senator"; and

22 WHEREAS, Steve's record of service in the Senate is
23 unparalleled and may never be matched again; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the
25 General Assembly express profound sorrow over the loss of
26 Stephen C. MacNett, an outstanding and dedicated public servant;
27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the
29 General Assembly express gratitude for Mr. MacNett's influence
30 and devotion to the Senate, the General Assembly, State

1 Government and the residents of Pennsylvania; and be it further
2 RESOLVED (the House of Representative concurring), That the
3 General Assembly extend condolences to the family of a cherished
4 former staff person, Stephen C. MacNett; and be it further
5 RESOLVED (the House of Representative concurring), That a
6 copy of this resolution be transmitted to the family of Stephen
7 C. MacNett.