
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 482 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, READSHAW, RYAN, FEE, KINSEY, BIZZARRO,
MURT, JAMES, KULIK, PYLE, ROTHMAN, BERNSTINE, LEWIS,
B. MILLER, MILLARD, KLUNK, SAYLOR, WHEELAND, POLINCHOCK,
ZIMMERMAN, KAUFFMAN, MACKENZIE, SOLOMON, DONATUCCI, SAINATO,
WARNER AND HILL-EVANS, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 38 (Holidays and Observances) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for holidays and
3 observances.

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

6 Section 1. Title 38 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding parts to read:

8 PART I

9 GENERAL PROVISIONS

10 (Reserved)

11 PART II

12 SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

13 Chapter

14 11. Preliminary Provisions (Reserved)

15 13. Veteran Recognition

16 CHAPTER 11

1 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

2 (Reserved)

3 CHAPTER 13

4 VETERAN RECOGNITION

5 Sec.

6 1301. Scope of chapter.

7 1302. First Gulf War Veterans Day.

8 1303. Afghanistan War Veterans Day.

9 1304. Second Gulf War Veterans Day.

10 § 1301. Scope of chapter.

11 This chapter recognizes the contributions of veterans of the
12 United States Armed Forces from this Commonwealth in major
13 conflicts since the Vietnam War.

14 § 1302. First Gulf War Veterans Day.

15 (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General
16 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

17 (1) On August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein ordered Iraqi
18 troops to invade and occupy the sovereign nation of Kuwait.

19 (2) The United States led an international coalition
20 demanding Saddam Hussein to withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwait
21 by January 15, 1991.

22 (3) After Iraq failed to meet the deadline, passed by
23 the United Nations Security Council, President George H. W.
24 Bush on January 16, 1991, ordered United States Armed Forces
25 to begin "Operation Desert Storm."

26 (4) On January 17, 750,000 coalition forces from 36
27 nations, including 540,000 United States Armed Forces, began
28 the battle to liberate Kuwait from occupation.

29 (5) After an intensive air campaign, coalition forces
30 liberated Kuwait City on February 28, 1991.

1 (6) On March 6, after negotiating a cease-fire,
2 President Bush announced the end of combat operations.

3 (7) By the end of the conflict, 200 United States Armed
4 Forces members were killed, including 29 from this
5 Commonwealth.

6 (8) The bravery of United States Armed Forces and their
7 allies should be recognized for the liberation of Kuwait and
8 restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty as an independent nation.

9 (b) Designation.--March 6 of each year is designated as
10 "First Gulf War Veterans Day."

11 (c) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a
12 proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational
13 institutions to observe "First Gulf War Veterans Day" and to
14 conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those
15 involved in the first Gulf War and remembering the sacrifices
16 they made for their country. The proclamation may not mandate a
17 public school or educational institution to participate in the
18 observance.

19 § 1303. Afghanistan War Veterans Day.

20 (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General
21 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

22 (1) The war in Afghanistan, which is America's longest
23 conflict, began in 2001 and continues to this day.

24 (2) Following the terrorist attacks on September 11,
25 2001, the United States demanded that the Taliban regime hand
26 over Osama bin Laden and stop harboring Al Qaeda.

27 (3) President George W. Bush ordered United States Armed
28 Forces to begin "Operation Enduring Freedom" to combat
29 terrorism in Afghanistan and confront Al Qaeda.

30 (4) United States Armed Forces first entered Afghanistan

1 and began combat operations on October 7, 2001.

2 (5) On May 2, 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed during
3 the fighting after President Barack Obama ordered Navy SEALs
4 to raid Osama bin Laden's compound.

5 (6) On December 28, 2014, the United States and the
6 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) combat operations
7 in Afghanistan officially ended.

8 (7) Since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom,
9 over 830,000 Americans, including 18,000 from this
10 Commonwealth, have served in Afghanistan.

11 (8) More than 2,000 members of the United States Armed
12 Forces, including 98 from this Commonwealth, were killed in
13 action in Afghanistan since combat began.

14 (9) More than 19,000 members of the United States Armed
15 Forces were wounded in service to their country in
16 Afghanistan.

17 (b) Designation.--October 7 of each year is designated as
18 "Afghanistan War Veterans Day."

19 (c) Proclamation.-- The Governor shall issue annually a
20 proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational
21 institutions to observe "Afghanistan War Veterans Day" and to
22 conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those
23 involved in the war in Afghanistan and remembering the
24 sacrifices they made for their country. The proclamation may not
25 mandate a public school or educational institution to
26 participate in the observance.

27 § 1304. Second Gulf War Veterans Day.

28 (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General
29 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

30 (1) The second Gulf War was fought from 2003 to 2008.

1 (2) On March 19, 2003, President George W. Bush
2 announced the beginning of combat operations in Iraq after
3 Saddam Hussein failed to meet the deadline for leaving Iraq.

4 (3) On December 18, 2011, the last member of the United
5 States Armed Forces left Iraq.

6 (4) Since the beginning of "Operation Iraqi Freedom,"
7 2.5 million Americans have served in Iraq.

8 (5) More than 4,000 members of the United States Armed
9 Forces lost their lives during the second Gulf War, including
10 197 from this Commonwealth, and more than 32,000 were
11 wounded.

12 (b) Designation.--December 18 of each year is designated
13 as "Second Gulf War Veterans Day."

14 (c) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a
15 proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational
16 institutions to observe "Second Gulf War Veterans Day" and to
17 conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those
18 involved in the second Gulf War and remembering the sacrifices
19 they made for their country. The proclamation may not mandate a
20 public school or educational institution to participate in the
21 observance.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.