

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 163 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, MARCH 19, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 19, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 15th anniversary of the fire at Ebenezer Baptist
2 Church in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, 2019 marks 15 years since a massive fire engulfed
4 the 131 year old Ebenezer Baptist Church in the Hill District of
5 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and

6 WHEREAS, The collapse of the bell tower symbolized one of the
7 most tragic fires in the history of the city; and

8 WHEREAS, Pittsburgh firefighters were participating in the
9 St. Patrick's Day parade when they were sent to put out the
10 massive church fire at Ebenezer, two of the brave firefighters,
11 Battalion Chief Charles Brace and Master Firefighter Richard
12 Stefanakis, were killed and 27 others were injured; and

13 WHEREAS, On March 16, 2019, two wreathes were laid at the
14 memorial inside of the church, remembering and honoring
15 Battalion Chief Charles Brace and Master Firefighter Richard
16 Stefanakis for their courage and their sacrifice for the
17 community; and

18 WHEREAS, It is important that the sacrifices of the brave men

1 and women who fight to protect the citizenry from such events be
2 forever recognized; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the brave
4 firefighters who sacrificed everything for the safety of the
5 community; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives transmit a copy
7 of this resolution to the families of Battalion Chief Charles
8 Brace and Master Firefighter Richard Stefanakis.