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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 522 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, SNYDER, SAINATO, BURNS, DEASY, READSHAW,  
KORTZ, HENNESSEY, BIZZARRO, DIGIROLAMO, RYAN, HARKINS,  
SONNEY, SCHLOSSBERG, JAMES, PICKETT, FREEMAN, BOBACK,  
MILLARD, BROWN, DELLOSO, LONGIETTI, HOHENSTEIN, MENTZER,  
O'MARA, CALTAGIRONE, BARRAR, BERNSTINE, GAYDOS, MURT,  
MARSHALL, SCHLEGEL CULVER, HILL-EVANS AND SCHWEYER,  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2019 as "Agent Orange Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Vietnam War was the longest conflict in American  
4 history in which the government of South Vietnam and its primary  
5 ally, the United States, fought against the communist government  
6 of North Vietnam and a South Vietnamese guerrilla force,  
7 commonly known as the Viet Cong; and

8 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, American servicepersons  
9 displayed heroic courage and determination under some of the  
10 most difficult circumstances ever encountered in United States  
11 military history; and

12 WHEREAS, Approximately 498,000 men and women from this  
13 Commonwealth served during the Vietnam War era, an estimated  
14 172,000 of whom directly participated in the war; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of

1 Veterans Affairs, the United States military developed Agent  
2 Orange and other herbicide combinations for use in combat  
3 operations to remove trees and dense tropical foliage that  
4 provided enemy cover; and

5 WHEREAS, The name Agent Orange comes from the orange  
6 identifying stripes that were used on the 55-gallon drums in  
7 which the herbicide was stored; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of  
9 Veterans Affairs, approximately 19 million gallons of Agent  
10 Orange and other herbicides were used during the Vietnam War;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Thousands of Vietnam War veterans have died due to  
13 the use of Agent Orange; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and  
15 Federal law provide for the presumption that certain diseases  
16 are a direct result of exposure to Agent Orange and other  
17 herbicides used during the Vietnam War; and

18 WHEREAS, Thousands of veterans still suffer from cancer and  
19 other health disorders caused by exposure to Agent Orange; and

20 WHEREAS, Veterans with health problems caused by Agent Orange  
21 live with the knowledge that genetic damage resulting from their  
22 exposure to Agent Orange may be handed down through generations;  
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
25 month of October 2019 as "Agent Orange Awareness Month" in  
26 Pennsylvania.