
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 564 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DAY, BERNSTINE, BIZZARRO, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE,
DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KNOWLES, KORTZ,
MILLARD, MURT, RYAN, SAINATO, SCHMITT, SONNEY AND YOUNGBLOOD,
OCTOBER 15, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, OCTOBER 15, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 22, 2019, as "Vincent Neil DiRenzo Day" in
2 Pennsylvania in memory of a native son who identified Cuban-
3 based Soviet nuclear missiles in October 1962.

4 WHEREAS, Vincent Neil DiRenzo, born August 24, 1928, in
5 Shenandoah, Schuylkill County, worked for the United States
6 intelligence community from 1956 through 1984; and

7 WHEREAS, A graduate of J.W. Cooper High School in Shenandoah
8 and East Stroudsburg State Teachers College, Mr. DiRenzo trained
9 and served four years with the United States Marines; and

10 WHEREAS, The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruited Mr.
11 DiRenzo while he was a graduate student at Clark University; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. DiRenzo joined the CIA as a photo interpreter
13 with the National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) in
14 Washington, DC; and

15 WHEREAS, As part of the Directorate of Science and
16 Technology, NPIC acted on verification requests for photographic
17 evidence used in intelligence reporting; and

1 WHEREAS, In October 1962, NPIC analyzed up to 70% of
2 actionable intelligence; and

3 WHEREAS, On October 15, 1962, reviewing more than 900 recent
4 aerial images from a top secret CIA-modified U-2 flight, Mr.
5 DiRenzo's team found significant canvas-covered objects
6 indicating ballistic missile installations near Los Palacios,
7 Cuba; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. DiRenzo's initial conclusions, confirmed by
9 NPIC's founding director Arthur Lundahl, were reported to
10 President John F. Kennedy; and

11 WHEREAS, United States defense operations around the globe
12 shifted to higher states of alert; and

13 WHEREAS, Within days, all regions of the United States except
14 the Pacific Northwest were believed to be within reach of Soviet
15 intermediate-range missiles; and

16 WHEREAS, On October 22, 1962, President Kennedy addressed the
17 nation, revealing the evidence of Soviet missiles in Cuba and
18 calling for their removal; and

19 WHEREAS, During the televised address, President Kennedy
20 announced the establishment of a naval quarantine around the
21 island of Cuba until the Soviet Union would agree to dismantle
22 the missile sites and to make certain that no additional
23 missiles would be shipped to Cuba; and

24 WHEREAS, Resolution of the unprecedented international crisis
25 came on October 28, 1962, when the Soviet Union pledged to
26 dismantle more than 40 installations; and

27 WHEREAS, The CIA presented Mr. DiRenzo with an Intelligence
28 Medal of Merit; and

29 WHEREAS, President Kennedy extended a Presidential
30 Commendation; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. DiRenzo was named a CIA division chief in 1968;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. DiRenzo's family lived in Emmaus, Lehigh County,
4 after his retirement; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2002, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency
6 inducted Mr. DiRenzo's team of photo interpreters into its Hall
7 of Fame; and

8 WHEREAS, Shenandoah Valley High School posthumously
9 recognized Mr. DiRenzo as a 2018 Wall of Fame honoree; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. DiRenzo died July 17, 2017, in Ashburn,
11 Virginia, at 88 years of age; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October
13 22, 2019, as "Vincent Neil DiRenzo Day" in Pennsylvania in
14 memory of a native son who identified Cuban-based Soviet nuclear
15 missiles in October 1962.