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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 873 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, KOSIEROWSKI, GALLOWAY, HILL-EVANS,  
ULLMAN, DRISCOLL, ROZZI, SANCHEZ, MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD,  
McCLINTON, BOBACK, KINSEY, READSHAW, FREEMAN, McCARTER,  
RAVENSTAHL, ISAACSON, SAPPEY, FIEDLER, THOMAS, MERSKI,  
DELLOSO, SAINATO, ZABEL, HOWARD, SCHLEGEL CULVER, GAINNEY,  
HOHENSTEIN, NEILSON, DONATUCCI, CIRESI, MALAGARI, SCHWEYER,  
POLINCHOCK, PASHINSKI, KORTZ, FRANKEL, SHUSTERMAN, TOMLINSON,  
McNEILL, LONGIETTI, A. DAVIS, BROWN, O'MARA AND STAATS,  
MAY 13, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MAY 13, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the year 2020 as "Frontline Workers Appreciation  
2 Year" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The emergence of human-to-human transmission of the  
4 coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, in late 2019 marked the  
5 beginning of an ongoing pandemic that poses a serious threat to  
6 the health and survival of communities all over the world,  
7 including here in this Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19,  
9 Governor Wolf signed a declaration of emergency disaster on  
10 March 6, 2020, and ordered the closure of all non-life-  
11 sustaining businesses in Pennsylvania on March 19, 2020; and

12 WHEREAS, To protect critical infrastructure during a time of  
13 crisis, essential services are being maintained and operated by  
14 frontline workers so all Pennsylvanians have access to goods and

1 services that are imperative for basic survival; and

2 WHEREAS, Frontline workers in the areas of health care,  
3 grocery and food services, emergency medical services and public  
4 safety, funeral services and delivery and transportation  
5 services are taking necessary risks and committing themselves to  
6 provide essential services during a pandemic so that their  
7 actions may prevent unnecessary deaths; and

8 WHEREAS, Doctors, nurses and other health care workers  
9 continue to treat patients who have contracted COVID-19, or  
10 other medical conditions, all while at high-risk for exposure  
11 and through diminishing and insufficient medical supplies and  
12 resources so that sick individuals can receive life-saving care;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Grocery and food supply workers, including  
15 invaluable farm workers, continue to maintain the food supply  
16 chain despite low wages and going without proper access to  
17 protective gear so that Pennsylvanians can procure the necessary  
18 supplies to practice social distancing and quarantine in the  
19 safety of their own homes; and

20 WHEREAS, Emergency medical services providers and first  
21 responders are often the initial point-of-contact with sick and  
22 dying patients, enduring long shifts and acute stress on a daily  
23 basis, to ensure that calls for help do not go unanswered; and

24 WHEREAS, Funeral service providers offer a vital and often  
25 overlooked service that is an essential part of public health,  
26 especially during a pandemic or any mass-fatality disaster,  
27 practicing infection control to care for the remains of  
28 individuals who died of confirmed or suspected COVID-19; and

29 WHEREAS, Postal and delivery workers ensure that individuals  
30 and families practicing social distancing are able to receive

1 essential life-preserving items such as food and medicine, as  
2 well as helping businesses stay financially solvent; and

3 WHEREAS, Transportation workers have sustained public transit  
4 for essential workers and individuals in need of essential goods  
5 and services who do not otherwise have access to personal  
6 transport, all amid a lack of basic protections; and

7 WHEREAS, In addition to the professions mentioned, there are  
8 a multitude of frontline workers who continue to make sacrifices  
9 and who are critical to this Commonwealth's ability to persevere  
10 through this watershed moment in history, who have only recently  
11 begun to gain full appreciation but who have always deserved  
12 recognition and gratitude; and

13 WHEREAS, During this public health crisis, when the gravity  
14 of their presence as frontline workers has never been more  
15 evident, it is only right to advocate for their needs and safety  
16 by ensuring that they are provided proper protective equipment,  
17 hazard pay and fair labor practices; and

18 WHEREAS, Acknowledging that recognition and appreciation of  
19 frontline workers' contributions to this Commonwealth is only  
20 the first step in thanking our frontline workers for their  
21 sacrifices; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
23 year 2020 as "Frontline Workers Appreciation Year" in  
24 Pennsylvania.