
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 960 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, BURNS, SONNEY, HICKERNELL, HOHENSTEIN,
COX, PASHINSKI, DALEY, SAINATO, CALTAGIRONE, VITALI, MERSKI,
WILLIAMS, BRIGGS, MARSHALL, MILLARD, McNEILL, READSHAW,
KINSEY, GALLOWAY, DONATUCCI, ROZZI, HOWARD, HARKINS, HILL-
EVANS, ROEBUCK, MADDEN, SAMUELSON, DEASY, NEILSON, DeLUCA,
KORTZ, KULIK, A. DAVIS, YOUNGBLOOD, McCLINTON AND DERMODY,
AUGUST 7, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 7, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and achievements of Dr. Ivan Itkin and
2 expressing condolences on his passing.

3 WHEREAS, After a long and healthy life as a nuclear
4 scientist, public servant, father and husband, Dr. Ivan Itkin
5 passed away on April 5, 2020, survived by his wife, Joyce, sons,
6 Marc and Max, and daughter, Laurie; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Itkin began his illustrious professional life as
8 a nuclear scientist, applied mathematician and reactor physicist
9 at the Westinghouse Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory in Pittsburgh
10 before applying his intellect to public service; and

11 WHEREAS, His expertise in nuclear science not only informed
12 the General Assembly during the tragedy of Three Mile Island but
13 earned him a place in the Clinton administration as head of the
14 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management at the United
15 States Department of Energy; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Itkin's passion for politics endured throughout
2 his adult life; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Itkin was a member of the 14th Ward Independent
4 Democratic Club in Pittsburgh's East End in the 1960s, ran for
5 State Senate in 1968, served as House majority leader, majority
6 and minority whip and chairman of the House Democratic Caucus
7 during his 26 years as a Pennsylvania State representative; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Itkin ran against incumbent governor Tom Ridge
9 in 1998 and later became president of the GO-GO Democrats during
10 his retirement in Florida; and

11 WHEREAS, His dedication to the constituents of the 23rd
12 Legislative District and the strong policy that served them was
13 met with respect by his colleagues who described him as "one of
14 the smartest and hardest-working people in Harrisburg"; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Itkin was generous with his knowledge, and
16 colleagues have lauded his humility, fraternity and respect
17 toward others; and

18 WHEREAS, These qualities extended to his policy initiatives,
19 which showed his respect for individuals; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Itkin fought ceaselessly to protect the civil
21 rights and economic security of the underserved; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Itkin did this by helping pass a bill in 1974
23 prohibiting discrimination against the disabled and sponsoring
24 early prescription affordability legislation which allowed
25 doctors to prescribe generic medications; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Itkin also led the charge of environmental
27 stewardship through the Building Energy Conservation Act which
28 established energy efficiency standards on commercial
29 properties; and

30 WHEREAS, Described by his daughter as a "consumer advocate,"

1 Dr. Itkin also worked to ensure that a new airport would not
2 gouge consumers, that credit card companies could not charge
3 exorbitant interest rates and that low-income individuals had
4 access to education and health care; and

5 WHEREAS, His daughter states that Dr. Itkin's legacy of
6 service to the residents of this Commonwealth had given him
7 "such a sense of purpose," that "[i]t was important to him that
8 he was able to positively affect the life of others"; therefore
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
11 and achievements of Dr. Ivan Itkin and express condolences on
12 his passing; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
14 the family of Dr. Ivan Itkin.