
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 17 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY CORMAN, K. WARD, ARGALL, AUMENT, BAKER,
BARTOLOTTA, BROOKS, BROWNE, COLLETT, COSTA, FONTANA, GORDNER,
HUGHES, HUTCHINSON, KANE, KEARNEY, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN,
MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL, PITTMAN, REGAN, ROBINSON, SANTARSIERO,
SCAVELLO, STEFANO, STREET, TOMLINSON, VOGEL, J. WARD, YAW AND
YUDICHAK, JANUARY 26, 2021

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 26, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and achievements of former Pennsylvania
2 Governor and United States Attorney General Richard "Dick"
3 Lewis Thornburgh.

4 WHEREAS, Richard "Dick" Lewis Thornburgh passed away December
5 31, 2020, at 88 years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh was born in Pittsburgh, Allegheny
7 County, on July 16, 1932, the son of Charles G. and Alice
8 Sanborn Thornburgh; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh attended Pittsburgh area schools,
10 Yale University, where he earned a degree in engineering in
11 1954, and the University of Pittsburgh, where he earned a law
12 degree with honors; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh holds 31 honorary degrees from
14 various colleges and universities; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1958, Mr. Thornburgh became a member of the
16 Pennsylvania Bar and worked in a private law practice for

1 several years; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh served as a delegate to
3 Pennsylvania's constitutional convention in 1967-1968; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1969, the Nixon Administration appointed Mr.
5 Thornburgh as the United States attorney for the Western
6 District of Pennsylvania, where he earned a reputation as an
7 anti-racketeering prosecutor and enforcer of the Federal
8 Organized Crime Control Act; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh held this post until 1975 when
10 President Gerald R. Ford appointed him assistant attorney
11 general for the Justice Department's Criminal Division, which he
12 held until 1977, when he returned to private practice; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1979, Mr. Thornburgh began his term as Governor
14 of Pennsylvania, a position he held until 1987; and

15 WHEREAS, During his tenure as Governor, Mr. Thornburgh
16 achieved numerous accomplishments and improved our Commonwealth
17 on a variety of issues, including a stronger economy and the
18 creation of thousands of new jobs in the service and technology
19 job sectors; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh launched the Ben Franklin
21 Partnership, an alliance among government, private industry and
22 research universities to foster high-tech enterprises, which
23 for nearly four decades has been successfully energizing the
24 innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem across our
25 Commonwealth; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh is credited with creating a Small
27 Business Action Center, increasing funding for the Pennsylvania
28 Industrial Development Authority, implementing a customized job
29 training program, a new travel and tourism initiative and
30 spending \$20 billion for improvements in infrastructure; and

1 WHEREAS, The Thornburgh administration's fiscal policies
2 resulted in balanced budgets, cuts to personal and corporate
3 income taxes, creation of a "rainy day" fund and reductions to
4 the Commonwealth's long-term indebtedness resulting in better
5 credit ratings; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh is also credited with consolidating
7 State-owned universities into an independent State System of
8 Higher Education and creating several "Governor's Schools" for
9 exceptional high school students; and

10 WHEREAS, In March 1979, Mr. Thornburgh's defining moment came
11 just two months into office when he was confronted with the
12 worst nuclear accident in American history; and

13 WHEREAS, In later years, Mr. Thornburgh was praised for
14 handling the 10-day crisis by many, including recognition by the
15 Republican Governors Association; and

16 WHEREAS, Following Mr. Thornburgh's tenure as Governor, he
17 taught at Harvard University and served as Director of the
18 Institute of Politics from 1987 to 1988, served as United States
19 Attorney General from 1998 to 1991 under Presidents Ronald W.
20 Reagan and George H. W. Bush, until President George H. W. Bush
21 appointed him Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations,
22 where he served from from 1992 to 1993; and

23 WHEREAS, As United States Attorney General, Mr. Thornburgh
24 played a proactive role in the strengthening and enforcement of
25 the Americans with Disabilities Act and against racial,
26 religious and ethnic hate crimes; and

27 WHEREAS, Following Mr. Thornburgh's role as Attorney General
28 and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, he returned
29 to private practice and served as an advisor and counselor to
30 government affairs clients with respect to matters concerning

1 Federal, State and local governments as well as international
2 organizations; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh was married to the former Virginia
4 (Ginny) Judson and has four sons; Peter, David, John and
5 William, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren;
6 therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life and achievements of
8 former Pennsylvania Governor and United States Attorney General
9 Richard "Dick" Lewis Thornburgh.