
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 40 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, BROWNE, HUGHES, ROBINSON, STREET,
BREWSTER, KANE AND STEFANO, MARCH 11, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MARCH 11, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and achievements of John DeFazio.

2 WHEREAS, John DeFazio was born and raised in Pittsburgh; and

3 WHEREAS, Out of high school, Mr. DeFazio went to work in a
4 steel mill while attending Point Park college at night; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. DeFazio became a household name throughout the
6 region as the larger-than-life professional wrestler "Jumpin'
7 Johnny" DeFazio; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. DeFazio was a four-time winner of the World Wide
9 Wrestling Federation's Junior Heavyweight Championship; and

10 WHEREAS, Immediately after going to work in the region's
11 steel mills, Mr. DeFazio knew that workers needed a voice and
12 became active in organized labor; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. DeFazio was elected president of his local union
14 at 29 years of age and would eventually become the International
15 Staff Representative for the United Steelworkers (USW) as well
16 as District Director of USW, which covers all of Pennsylvania;
17 and

1 WHEREAS, In 1999, Mr. DeFazio was elected to the Allegheny
2 County Council at-large seat in which he served until 2019,
3 fighting to bring progressive changes to the region; and

4 WHEREAS, With the leadership of Mr. DeFazio, the Allegheny
5 County Council passed legislation creating the county's
6 homestead exemption, which disproportionately helps low and
7 middle-class income homeowners; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. DeFazio is also credited with helping to
9 stabilize finances, which resulted in Allegheny County's bond
10 rating increasing to the highest level in 35 years in which more
11 services were provided for less to the region's residents; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. DeFazio believed that everyone was entitled to
13 equal treatment and cosponsored legislation creating the Human
14 Relations Commission to ensure that all are afforded equal
15 protection regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or
16 gender identity; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life and achievements of
18 John DeFazio.