
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 135 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, AUMENT, BROWNE, BROOKS, PHILLIPS-HILL,
YAW, FONTANA, ARGALL AND MARTIN, JUNE 14, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 14, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 246th Anniversary of the founding of the United
2 States Army.

3 WHEREAS, The United States Army, originally known as the
4 Continental Army, was founded on June 14, 1775, 246 years ago,
5 and today has the distinction of being our nation's oldest
6 fighting force; and

7 WHEREAS On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress in
8 Philadelphia passed the following resolution:

9 Resolved, that six companies of expert riflemen [sic], be
10 immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and
11 two in Virginia; ... [and] that each company, as soon as
12 completed [sic], shall march and join the army near
13 Boston, to be there employed as light infantry, under the
14 command of the chief Officer in that army;

15 and

16 WHEREAS, The resolution formed a "continental" army,
17 consisting of a united colonial fighting force representing the
18 13 colonies and additional troops from the three middle colonies

1 and creating America's first national institution; and

2 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania was a central focal point in our
3 nation's quest for freedom and formed in support of those
4 efforts the Pennsylvania Line in 1775, comprised of 13 regiments
5 and several independent companies; and

6 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Line included line troops, who
7 served without uniformity of service or term, rangers, who
8 served long term on the frontier and the Corps of Invalids, who
9 served after being disabled in battle; and

10 WHEREAS, On June 17, 1775, the Continental Army fought the
11 infamous Battle of Bunker Hill, an act of bravery that would
12 garner a spiritual victory for the outnumbered militia in the
13 agony of defeat, forever etching in our history the true grit of
14 American patriotism; and

15 WHEREAS, On June 19, 1775, the Continental Congress voted
16 unanimously to commission George Washington of Virginia to be
17 General and Commander in Chief, based upon his celebrated
18 military record and leadership by the following measure:

19 We, reposing special trust and confidence in your
20 patriotism, valor, conduct, and fidelity, do, by these
21 presents, constitute and appoint you to be General and
22 Commander in chief, of the army of the United Colonies,
23 and of all the forces now raised, or to be raised, by
24 them, and of all others who shall voluntarily offer their
25 service, and join the said Army for the Defence [sic] of
26 American liberty, and for repelling every hostile
27 invasion thereof: And you are hereby vested with full
28 power and authority to act as you shall think for the
29 good and welfare of the service;

30 and

1 WHEREAS, On July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, our founders
2 absolved our nation from the British crown with the signing of
3 the Declaration of Independence, that in part stated:

4 When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary
5 for one people to dissolve the political bands which have
6 connected them with another, and to assume among the
7 powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to
8 which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle
9 them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind
10 requires that they should declare the causes which impel
11 them to the separation.

12 We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are
13 created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator
14 with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are
15 Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

16 * * *

17 We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States
18 of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to
19 the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our
20 intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good
21 People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare,
22 That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be
23 Free and Independent States;

24 and

25 WHEREAS, With the signing of the Declaration of Independence,
26 the Army of the United Colonies, that consisted of the
27 Continental Army and militia, became known as the Army of the
28 United States; and

29 WHEREAS, On March 15, 1783, General George Washington averted
30 a military coup by foiling the Newburg Conspiracy, affirming the

1 significance of civilian control of the military in matters of
2 domestic conflict; and

3 WHEREAS, On June 3, 1784, the Continental Congress voted to
4 form America's first regiment of the United States Army for
5 national service and by the fall of 1784, the United States Army
6 consisted of one regiment, eight infantry and two artillery
7 companies; and

8 WHEREAS, On September 17, 1787, Article II, Section 2, Clause
9 1 of the Constitution of the United States granted the power of
10 Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States to
11 the President; and

12 WHEREAS, On August 7, 1789, the Continental Congress was
13 replaced by the Congress of the United States, and the
14 Department of War, later known as the Department of Defense, was
15 created to oversee the operation and maintenance of the United
16 States Army and the waterways under the executive branch of the
17 newly created Federal Government; and

18 WHEREAS, Historically, Pennsylvanians have always answered
19 the call to serve our Nation; and

20 WHEREAS, Based upon recent data, there are more than 820,000
21 veterans in our Commonwealth, representing 7.3% of this
22 Commonwealth' population, and in every county, veterans make up
23 approximately 10% of the population; and

24 WHEREAS, Approximately 45% of veterans in this Commonwealth
25 are United States Army veterans; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the 246th anniversary of
27 the founding of the United States Army; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate pause to honor our nation's "first
29 national institution" and first line of defense, the United
30 States Army, and pay tribute to the men and women who have

1 sacrificed, through blood, sweat and tears, to serve this great
2 republic, the United States of America, the land of the free and
3 the home of the brave.