

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 225 Session of  
2022

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, FONTANA, BROOKS, MARTIN, HUTCHINSON,  
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FEBRUARY 9, 2022

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring victims of Agent Orange during the  
2 Vietnam War.

3 WHEREAS, Our nation was conceived by individuals who were  
4 willing to sacrifice their personal safety to ensure our  
5 individual and collective freedom, and this Commonwealth is  
6 especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women  
7 who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

8 WHEREAS, The citizens of the United States have, throughout  
9 the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies  
10 of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their  
11 loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and  
12 liberties guaranteed to all Americans and vanquishing those who  
13 threaten our way of life; and

14 WHEREAS, More than eight million citizens of this country  
15 honorably served during the Vietnam War, during which time Agent  
16 Orange was widely used in Vietnam by the United States Armed  
17 Forces as part of the herbicidal warfare program Operation Ranch

1 Hand from 1961 until 1971; and

2 WHEREAS, Nearly 20 million gallons of the orange powder were  
3 sprayed over the land from helicopters or low-flying aircraft,  
4 destroying vegetation and crops in order to deprive enemy  
5 guerrillas of food and cover for their activities and exposing  
6 2.6 million American soldiers to the herbicide and defoliant  
7 chemical; and

8 WHEREAS, Agent Orange is a dioxin and cancer-causing chemical  
9 that enters the body through physical contact or ingestion and  
10 moves into the human cell nucleus, where it attacks the genes  
11 and causes a number of serious illnesses, including leukemia,  
12 lymphoma, myeloma, ischemic heart disease, soft tissue sarcoma,  
13 amyloidosis, diabetes and cancers of the throat, prostate, lung  
14 and colon; and

15 WHEREAS, Agent Orange also causes genetic damage, and in some  
16 cases, the children and grandchildren of veterans exposed to  
17 Agent Orange have been born with spina bifida and other  
18 abnormalities; and

19 WHEREAS, Today, only 600,000 Vietnam veterans exposed to  
20 Agent Orange are alive, and approximately 390 deaths occur among  
21 them every day; and

22 WHEREAS, While fallen comrades are memorialized on The Wall  
23 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, those  
24 veterans who are victims of Agent Orange are not recognized as  
25 fatalities of the Vietnam War; and

26 WHEREAS, It is most appropriate that we should honor these  
27 veterans to the full extent of our ability, as they have made  
28 untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties that  
29 we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to  
30 cherish for generations to come; and

1       WHEREAS, The honoring of these veterans is long overdue;  
2 therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize and honor victims of  
4 Agent Orange during the Vietnam War; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That, with much contrition and empathy, the  
6 Commonwealth pause in concurrence with many others to recognize  
7 and honor our own, their families and the millions of Vietnam  
8 Veterans harmed by the chemical herbicidal poisoning of Agent  
9 Orange and acknowledge that our history attests to their  
10 courageous service to our nation during a most turbulent time in  
11 our nation's history.