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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 125 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, WEBSTER, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, PIELLI,  
MARCELL, DELLOSO, JAMES, BELLMON, GILLEN, SANCHEZ, KHAN AND  
PARKER, MAY 24, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, MAY 24, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 4 through 11, 2023, as  
2 "Veterans Week of Service" in Pennsylvania to coincide with  
3 the annual Veterans Day observance on November 11, 2023.

4 WHEREAS, Tens of millions of Americans have served in the  
5 United States Armed Forces since the battles of Lexington and  
6 Concord, which started the American Revolutionary War or the War  
7 of Independence, in 1775; and

8 WHEREAS, The past and present sacrifices of each generation  
9 of American men and women who served in the armed forces and the  
10 hundreds of thousands who gave their lives to preserve our  
11 democracy must and should be recognized and honored by all  
12 residents; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed  
14 November 11 as Armistice Day to honor veterans who fought in  
15 World War I and commemorate the implementation of an armistice  
16 between the Allies and Germany at the 11th hour on the 11th day  
17 of November; and

1       WHEREAS, In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed  
2 legislation which changed the name of Armistice Day to Veterans  
3 Day; and

4       WHEREAS, In 1968, the Congress of the United States passed  
5 legislation that established the fourth Monday in October as the  
6 day to commemorate and honor the military service of generations  
7 of American veterans; and

8       WHEREAS, In 1978, Congress again passed legislation that  
9 reverted the national observance of Veterans Day back to  
10 November 11; and

11       WHEREAS, Not unlike past generations of American veterans,  
12 some contemporary members of our armed forces encounter unique  
13 and difficult circumstances when transitioning from military to  
14 civilian life; and

15       WHEREAS, To meet the unique needs of Vietnam-era veterans and  
16 servicemembers returning from deployment in the Middle East,  
17 especially Iraq and Afghanistan, some veterans continue to lead  
18 and serve through the establishment of charitable organizations;  
19 and

20       WHEREAS, In 1982, a group of Vietnam-era veterans in  
21 southwestern Pennsylvania established the Vietnam Veterans  
22 Leadership Program; and

23       WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program was a job  
24 placement and training program for veterans who faced difficulty  
25 finding employment during the economic downturn of the 1980s;  
26 and

27       WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is now the  
28 Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania; and

29       WHEREAS, The primary mission of the Veterans Leadership  
30 Program of Western Pennsylvania is to provide essential housing,

1 employment, education and training assistance, supportive  
2 services, qualified referrals and case management services to  
3 all eligible veterans of western Pennsylvania, servicemembers  
4 and their families with the goal of improving their self-  
5 sufficiency, sustainability and quality of life; and

6 WHEREAS, The Veterans Leadership Program of Western  
7 Pennsylvania also provides a Homeless Veterans Reintegration  
8 Program, a Federal program that serves homeless veterans with  
9 employment and training assistance; and

10 WHEREAS, The board of directors of the Veterans Leadership  
11 Program of Western Pennsylvania includes veterans of the Army,  
12 Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Air National Guard; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the latest data, the veteran population  
14 in this Commonwealth totals more than 800,000 veterans; and

15 WHEREAS, In southeastern Pennsylvania, the Greater  
16 Philadelphia Veterans Network (GPVN) was established in 2010 by  
17 a network of veterans working in different industries to mentor  
18 and empower veterans living in southeastern Pennsylvania,  
19 southern New Jersey and Delaware; and

20 WHEREAS, The primary mission of GPVN is:

21 (1) to assist veterans, National Guard members and  
22 reservists to find work through career service, programs and  
23 initiatives, mentorships, networking and job leads;

24 (2) to educate employers in the greater Philadelphia  
25 area on how to hire local veterans; and

26 (3) to offer veteran professional leadership and veteran  
27 entrepreneurship programs;

28 and

29 WHEREAS, As a nonprofit veterans service organization, GPVN  
30 is known as an organization that inspires, empowers and demands

1 accountability from all veterans it works with; and

2 WHEREAS, The work of GPVN is reflected in its tag line "Our  
3 Tools, Your Mission"; and

4 WHEREAS, The Veterans Leadership Program of Western  
5 Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia Veterans Network are  
6 just two examples of organizations in this Commonwealth and  
7 nationwide that were established by veterans to help veterans  
8 and as an extension of their legacy of service; and

9 WHEREAS, The recognition of Veterans Day gives Americans the  
10 opportunity to thank veterans for their service and recognize  
11 their dedication to preserving our freedoms and democracy; and

12 WHEREAS, Our annual commemoration of Veterans Day still  
13 embodies the original purpose of President Woodrow Wilson's  
14 official Armistice Day proclamation in November 1919, as a day  
15 of reflection "to be filled with the solemn pride in the heroism  
16 of those who died in the country's service"; and

17 WHEREAS, Veterans serving veterans, inherent in the work of  
18 organizations such as the Veterans Leadership Program of Western  
19 Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia Veterans Network,  
20 evidences the willingness of some veterans to continue to lead  
21 and answer the call of service to our country, communities and  
22 their peers; and

23 WHEREAS, These organizations should be honored and recognized  
24 for their efforts to improve the quality of life of veterans in  
25 this Commonwealth; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
27 week of November 4 through 11, 2023, as "Veterans Week of  
28 Service" in Pennsylvania to coincide with the annual Veterans  
29 Day observance on November 11, 2023; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all

1 residents of this Commonwealth to commemorate Veterans Day with  
2 solemn but thankful reflection on the sacrifices and  
3 contributions of all veterans and the legacy of service many  
4 veterans continue to make to our country, community and peers in  
5 this Commonwealth and nationwide; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
7 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.