

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 125 Session of 2023

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

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

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~~ WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF <--

1 MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND MANY VETERAN SERVICE
2 ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS COMMONWEALTH provide essential housing,
3 employment, education and training assistance, supportive
4 services, qualified referrals and case management services to
5 all eligible veterans of western Pennsylvania, servicemembers <--
6 and their families with the goal of improving their self-
7 sufficiency, sustainability and quality of life; and

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, The primary mission of GPVN is:

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

26 ~~(2) to educate employers in the greater Philadelphia~~
27 ~~area on how to hire local veterans; and~~

28 ~~(3) to offer veteran professional leadership and veteran~~
29 ~~entrepreneurship programs;~~

30 and

1 ~~WHEREAS, As a nonprofit veterans service organization, GPVN~~
2 ~~is known as an organization that inspires, empowers and demands~~
3 ~~accountability from all veterans it works with; and~~

4 ~~WHEREAS, The work of GPVN is reflected in its tag line "Our~~
5 ~~Tools, Your Mission"; and~~

6 ~~WHEREAS, The Veterans Leadership Program of Western~~
7 ~~Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia Veterans Network are~~
8 ~~just two examples of~~ WHEREAS, THERE ARE MANY organizations in <--
9 this Commonwealth and nationwide that were established by
10 veterans to help veterans and as an extension of their legacy of
11 service; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, Veterans serving veterans, inherent in the work of
21 THESE KINDS OF organizations ~~such as the Veterans Leadership~~ <--
22 ~~Program of Western Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia~~
23 ~~Veterans Network,~~ evidences the willingness of some veterans to
24 continue to lead and answer the call of service to our country,
25 communities and their peers; and

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

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
30 week of November 4 through 11, 2023, as "Veterans Week of

1 Service" in Pennsylvania to coincide with the annual Veterans
2 Day observance on November 11, 2023; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
4 residents of this Commonwealth to commemorate Veterans Day with
5 solemn but thankful reflection on the sacrifices and
6 contributions of all veterans and the legacy of service many
7 veterans continue to make to our country, community and peers in
8 this Commonwealth and nationwide; and be it further

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