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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 510 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, MARSHALL, HARKINS, FREEMAN, KAZEEM,  
MCNEILL, VENKAT, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS,  
RABB, COOK, JAMES, HADDOCK, GALLAGHER, CONKLIN, HEFFLEY,  
NEILSON, SANCHEZ, MADDEN, DALEY, JOZWIAK, DELLOSO AND O'MARA,  
AUGUST 15, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, AUGUST 15, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2024 as "Agent Orange Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Vietnam War was the longest conflict in American  
4 history in which the government of South Vietnam and its primary  
5 ally, the United States, fought against the communist government  
6 of North Vietnam and a South Vietnamese guerrilla force,  
7 commonly known as the Viet Cong; and

8 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, American servicepersons  
9 displayed heroic courage and determination under some of the  
10 most difficult circumstances ever encountered in United States  
11 military history; and

12 WHEREAS, Approximately 498,000 men and women from this  
13 Commonwealth served during the Vietnam War era, an estimated  
14 172,000 of whom directly participated in the war; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of  
16 Veterans Affairs, the United States military developed Agent

1 Orange and other herbicide combinations for use in combat  
2 operations to remove trees and dense tropical foliage that  
3 provided enemy cover; and

4 WHEREAS, The name Agent Orange comes from the orange  
5 identifying stripes that were used on the 55-gallon drums in  
6 which the herbicide was stored; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of  
8 Veterans Affairs, approximately 19 million gallons of Agent  
9 Orange and other herbicides were used during the Vietnam War;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Thousands of Vietnam War veterans have died due to  
12 the use of Agent Orange; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and  
14 Federal law provide for the presumption that certain diseases  
15 are a direct result of exposure to Agent Orange and other  
16 herbicides used during the Vietnam War; and

17 WHEREAS, Vietnam-era sailors who served on ships in open  
18 waters around Vietnam were exposed to high levels of chemical  
19 herbicide through their ships' water systems; and

20 WHEREAS, Agent Orange, which was used to clear trees and  
21 plants in Vietnam, also caused a variety of health problems in  
22 veterans, including those who served on boats; and

23 WHEREAS, These veterans are commonly referred to as Blue  
24 Water Navy Veterans; and

25 WHEREAS, Blue Water Navy Veterans who served as far as 12  
26 nautical miles from the shore of Vietnam or had service in the  
27 Korean Demilitarized Zone are presumed to have been exposed to  
28 herbicides such as Agent Orange; and

29 WHEREAS, Vietnam-era veterans may be entitled to service  
30 connection for any conditions related to herbicide exposure

1 under the Federal Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive  
2 Toxics Act of 2021; and

3 WHEREAS, The Federal Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of  
4 2019 extended the presumption of herbicide exposure such as  
5 Agent Orange to veterans who served in the offshore waters of  
6 the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7,  
7 1975; and

8 WHEREAS, An estimated 420,000 to 560,000 Vietnam-era Veterans  
9 may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans and it is reasonable  
10 to infer that this number includes a significant number of  
11 Pennsylvanians who deserve recognition and resources for their  
12 service and sacrifice; and

13 WHEREAS, Thousands of veterans still suffer from cancer and  
14 other health disorders caused by exposure to Agent Orange; and

15 WHEREAS, Veterans with health problems caused by Agent Orange  
16 live with the knowledge that genetic damage resulting from their  
17 exposure to Agent Orange may be handed down through generations;  
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
20 month of October 2024 as "Agent Orange Awareness Month" in  
21 Pennsylvania.