
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 43 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN, PENNYCUICK, FONTANA, MARTIN, PHILLIPS-
HILL, LANGERHOLC, CAPPELLETTI, BARTOLOTTA, ROTHMAN, COMMITTA,
COSTA AND HUTCHINSON, FEBRUARY 27, 2023

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 27, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and achievements of former Attorney General
2 William C. Sennett and expressing condolences on his passing.

3 WHEREAS, William C. Sennett was born June 1, 1930, the son of
4 B. Walker Sennett and Rosanna Cooney Sennett, in Erie; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Sennett graduated from Cathedral Preparatory
6 School in Erie in 1948 and was subsequently inducted into the
7 Cathedral Preparatory School Hall of Fame in 2002; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Sennett graduated cum laude from Holy Cross
9 College in 1952 and Georgetown Law School, where he was an
10 editor of the Georgetown Law Review; and

11 WHEREAS, Following his graduation from Georgetown Law School
12 in 1955, Mr. Sennett clerked in Washington, DC, in the United
13 States Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, for the
14 Honorable John A. Danaher, Judge; and

15 WHEREAS, After his clerkship, Mr. Sennett practiced law in
16 Erie for over 50 years with his father, B. Walker Sennett, and
17 with Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, where he was president

1 from 1985 to 1994; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Sennett practiced in the areas of government,
3 municipal law and industrial and corporate finance, including
4 acting as bond counsel on numerous bond issues throughout the
5 northwestern region of this Commonwealth and acting as solicitor
6 for the Erie Sewer Authority, Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port
7 Authority, North East School District, the Millcreek Township
8 Water Authority and the Automotive Association of Erie County;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Sennett was a member of the National Association
11 of Bond Lawyers, and also a founder of the Pennsylvania
12 Association of Bond Lawyers, for which he served on the board of
13 directors and as president from 1989 to 1990; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Sennett served as the youngest Attorney General
15 in the history of this Commonwealth in the administration of
16 Governor Raymond P. Shafer from 1967 to 1970, where he
17 represented this Commonwealth before the Supreme Court of
18 Pennsylvania and the United States Supreme Court in numerous
19 cases; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1979, Mr. Sennett was appointed to the
21 Pennsylvania Appellate Court Nominating Commission; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Sennett was a fellow of the American Bar
23 Foundation and also a member of the Erie County Bar Association,
24 where he was recognized as the chancellor; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Sennett served as a trustee of Mercyhurst
26 University for four decades, including 13 years as chairman; and

27 WHEREAS, In recognition of this commitment, Mr. Sennett was
28 granted trustee emeritus status in 2014, and the Sennett Board
29 Room in the Hammermill Library was named in his honor; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Sennett was also a member of the board of

1 trustees at the Jefferson Educational Society; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Sennett served in various lay positions at St.
3 George Church and Parish in Erie from the 1960s to the 1990s;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Sennett passed away on January 23, 2023, at 92
6 years of age, while surrounded by family in Erie; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Sennett is survived by his wife Marlene L.
8 Braham and his six children, William Sennett, Timothy Sennett,
9 Patrick Sennett, Mark Sennett, Kathleen Broadbent and Carolyn
10 Sennett, as well as numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews;
11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life and achievements of
13 former Attorney General William C. Sennett and express
14 condolences on his passing.