
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 602 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, FITZGERALD, BURNS, ROTHMAN, BERNSTINE,
O'NEAL, BIZZARRO, RYAN, T. DAVIS, SCHLOSSBERG, KENYATTA,
HILL-EVANS, WILLIAMS, MILLARD, LONGIETTI, KORTZ, MURT,
SAPPEY, B. MILLER, MENTZER, READSHAW, YOUNGBLOOD, SAINATO,
HOWARD, SAYLOR, GOODMAN, SOLOMON, NEILSON, HEFFLEY, CIRESI,
McCLINTON, JOZWIAK AND EVERETT, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 4 through 11, 2019, as
2 "Veterans Week of Service" in Pennsylvania to coincide with
3 the annual Veterans Day observance on November 11, 2019.

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 citizens; 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 to commemorate the implementation of an
16 armistice between the Allies and Germany at the 11th hour on the

1 11th day of November; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, The primary mission of the Veterans Leadership

1 Program of Western Pennsylvania is to provide essential housing,
2 employment, education and training assistance, supportive
3 services, qualified referrals and case management services to
4 all eligible veterans of western Pennsylvania, service members
5 and their families with the goal of improving their self-
6 sufficiency, sustainability and quality of life; and

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

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

14 WHEREAS, Western Pennsylvania is the home of more than
15 260,000 veterans, one of the largest concentrations of veterans
16 in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the latest data, the veteran population
18 in this Commonwealth totals more than 700,000 veterans; and

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

24 WHEREAS, The primary mission of the GPVN is:

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

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

30 (3) to offer veteran professional leadership and veteran

1 entrepreneurship programs;

2 and

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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Veterans serving veterans, inherent in the work of
22 organizations like the Veterans Leadership Program of Western
23 Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia Veterans Network,
24 evidences the willingness of some veterans to continue to lead
25 and answer the call of service to our country, communities and
26 their peers; and

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

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the

1 week of November 4 through 11, 2019, as "Veterans Week of
2 Service" in Pennsylvania to coincide with the annual Veterans
3 Day observance on November 11, 2019; and be it further

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

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