
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 221 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, VOGEL, ARGALL, J. WARD,
BROWNE, MARTIN, HUTCHINSON, PITTMAN, SCHWANK, MENSCH AND
AUMENT, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating Pennsylvania's contribution to the Allied victory
2 in the First World War.

3 WHEREAS, September 26, 2019, marks the 101st anniversary of
4 the start of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive; and

5 WHEREAS, This was the largest and costliest battle ever
6 fought by the armed forces of the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, The offensive spanned 47 days and eventually drew in
8 1.2 million United States troops; and

9 WHEREAS, By November 11, 1918, when the armistice was signed,
10 10,278 armed servicemembers from Pennsylvania had died and
11 26,252 were wounded; and

12 WHEREAS, The American Expeditionary Forces were given the
13 most difficult sector, the dense Argonne Forest and the vast
14 Meuse River Valley, and they attacked with the support of the
15 French Fourth Army on September 26, 1918; and

16 WHEREAS, The Meuse-Argonne Offensive had two strategic goals,
17 draw a significant number of German strategic reserves and

1 sever the critical Sedan-Mezieres rail supply line; and

2 WHEREAS, Contrary to General John Pershing's optimism that
3 the United States forces would advance swiftly, fighting was
4 bitter and advancement was slow and painful; and

5 WHEREAS, Rather than a matter of days, success took weeks;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, It was not until November that, after a commitment
8 of 1.2 million men and more than 120,000 casualties, break-out,
9 exploitation and open warfare occurred; and

10 WHEREAS, Ultimately, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive played a
11 major role in the Allied victory, absorbing a significant number
12 of Germany's strategic reserve divisions, which enabled the
13 French, British and Belgium forces to break through the
14 Hindenburg Line and advance eastward; and

15 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania was a key contributor to the Allied
16 victory with the 28th, 79th and 80th Divisions, despite
17 encountering stiff resistance, helping to break the enemy's
18 defensive lines in Meuse-Argonne; and

19 WHEREAS, In total, more than 297,000 Pennsylvanians served in
20 the Great War and the toll of their contribution was a heavy one
21 with more than 36,500 casualties; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate commemorate Pennsylvania's
23 contribution to the Allied victory in the First World War.