
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 148 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY CONKLIN, PASHINSKI, HARKINS, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY,
R. MACKENZIE, MADDEN, MARCELL, MERSKI, OBERLANDER, PICKETT,
RABB, SANCHEZ, STAMBAUGH, STENDER AND SAPPEY, JUNE 12, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
JUNE 12, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 18, 2023, as "State Grange Day" in
2 Pennsylvania and celebrating the Pennsylvania State Grange on
3 its 150th anniversary.

4 WHEREAS, Founded after the Civil War in 1867, the Order of
5 Patrons of Husbandry, commonly known as the Grange, was
6 originally a fraternal order that encouraged families to band
7 together to promote the economic and political well-being of the
8 rural and agricultural communities; and

9 WHEREAS, Once established nationally, the Grange set out to
10 organize local chapters in communities across the states; and

11 WHEREAS, The idea of Grange first came to Harrisburg on April
12 3, 1868, however, it would be another three years until this
13 Commonwealth's first Grange would be established; and

14 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1871, Eagle Grange #1 in Clinton
15 Township, Lycoming County, this Commonwealth's first and still
16 active Grange, was organized by a group of local farmers, led by
17 Luke Eger, who had become concerned about the rising costs of

1 farming in the post-Civil War economy; and

2 WHEREAS, By 1873, the Grange movement really took hold in
3 this Commonwealth and on September 18 of that year, a meeting
4 was held in the City of Reading to organize the Pennsylvania
5 State Grange; and

6 WHEREAS, By the time the Pennsylvania State Grange was
7 organized, a total of 25 local Grange chapters had been formed
8 in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Crawford, Cumberland, Lancaster,
9 Lebanon, Lycoming, Monroe and Montgomery Counties; and

10 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has been among the largest
11 membership states and has always assumed leadership roles for
12 National Grange initiatives; and

13 WHEREAS, Particularly noteworthy and uniquely Pennsylvania
14 Grange projects include the building of the Grange Memorial Hall
15 girls' dormitory on the campus of The Pennsylvania State
16 University in 1928, the "Milk of Human Kindness," which provided
17 more than 40,000 gallons of milk to children in Europe after
18 World War II and the 1960's "Goats for Guatemala" project; and

19 WHEREAS, The popular Pennsylvania State Grange cookbook was
20 first published in 1925 specifically to raise money for the
21 Grange Memorial Hall project and had new editions published in
22 1951, 1972, 1984, 1992, 1997 and 2010; and

23 WHEREAS, Over the years, the Grange has evolved from its
24 roots as a farmer's fraternity to a multifaceted community
25 service organization by actively advocating for rural and
26 agricultural issues, embodying the spirit of fellowship and
27 promoting education and community service; and

28 WHEREAS, Today, this Commonwealth is home to approximately
29 170 local Grange chapters and includes nearly 5,700 dedicated
30 members of all ages; and

1 WHEREAS, These individuals, juniors, youths, young adults and
2 adults alike, tirelessly serve their communities, embody the
3 core values of the Grange and exemplify the unity and
4 perseverance that the founding members envisioned; and

5 WHEREAS, The story of the Grange continues to enrich our past
6 and shape our future as described in the Grange motto by
7 encouraging unity of purpose, liberty of actions and charity of
8 service; and

9 WHEREAS, This year marks the 150th anniversary of the
10 Pennsylvania State Grange, a significant milestone that deserves
11 recognition and celebration; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
13 September 18, 2023, as "State Grange Day" in Pennsylvania; and
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives celebrate the
16 150th anniversary of the Pennsylvania State Grange and recognize
17 the profound contributions of the Grange to this Commonwealth.