
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 286 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, MALAGARI, KENYATTA, BIZZARRO, RYAN,
DIGIROLAMO, FEE, KORTZ, MILLARD, SOLOMON, DONATUCCI, SONNEY,
MCNEILL, SAINATO, HOHENSTEIN, SHUSTERMAN, SCHLOSSBERG,
McCARTER, JAMES, SNYDER, KULIK, ISAACSON, LONGIETTI, HILL-
EVANS, HOWARD, KINSEY, ROTHMAN, COX, ROZZI, BURNS, READSHAW,
KIRKLAND, MULLERY, STAATS, GLEIM, FREEMAN, NEILSON, SCHLEGEL
CULVER AND DeLUCA, APRIL 30, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 30, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing condolences to the city of Paris, France, on the
2 destruction of Notre-Dame Cathedral.

3 WHEREAS, On the evening of April 15, 2019, Parisian
4 authorities were alerted to a fire in the attic of Cathédrale
5 Notre-Dame de Paris, which is located in the heart of Paris on a
6 small island known as Île de la Cité in the middle of the River
7 Seine; and

8 WHEREAS, Construction on the medieval Gothic Cathedral, whose
9 name means "Our Lady of Paris," began in 1163 during the reign
10 of King Louis VII, and was completed in 1345; and

11 WHEREAS, As one of the most famous landmarks in Paris, Notre-
12 Dame is visited by about 13 million people a year who flock to
13 it in reverence of its religious significance, architectural
14 mastery and rich history; and

15 WHEREAS, In the centuries since it was built, the cathedral

1 has survived rioting Huguenots, the French Revolution, two world
2 wars, air pollution and acid rain; and

3 WHEREAS, Notre-Dame has hosted significant historical events,
4 such as the coronation of Napoleon Bonaparte who was crowned
5 emperor in 1804 and the beatification of Joan of Arc by Pope
6 Pius X in 1909; and

7 WHEREAS, The cathedral became damaged and neglected after the
8 French Revolution but underwent a period of significant
9 overhauls from 1844 to 1864, which were spurred by the
10 popularity of Victor Hugo's 1831 novel, "The Hunchback of Notre
11 Dame"; and

12 WHEREAS, In recent years, Notre-Dame once again had fallen
13 into disrepair and was undergoing extensive renovations and
14 restorations when the fire started; and

15 WHEREAS, Upon the sounding of the first fire alarm on April
16 15, 2019, investigators found no indication of fire, however, a
17 second alarm sounded 20 minutes later which led to the discovery
18 of a fire in the attic; and

19 WHEREAS, Approximately 400 firefighters were deployed to the
20 scene of the fire which quickly spread across the roof of the
21 cathedral; and

22 WHEREAS, Thousands of Parisians who had gathered in the
23 streets watched as Notre-Dame's iconic spire became engulfed in
24 flames and collapsed; and

25 WHEREAS, Firefighters, priests and municipal workers fought
26 through smoke, fumes and debris to save irreplaceable artifacts,
27 including candelabras, statues, furnishings and religious relics
28 such as the tunic of St. Louis and the Crown of Thorns, revered
29 as the one worn by Jesus Christ at his crucifixion; and

30 WHEREAS, When the fire approached Notre-Dame's bell towers,

1 20 brave firefighters risked their lives by climbing inside the
2 towers to attack the fire from the inside which allowed them to
3 save the bell towers and main edifice; and

4 WHEREAS, Firefighters worked tirelessly for nine hours until
5 the fire was finally brought under control during the early
6 hours of the following morning; and

7 WHEREAS, Authorities believe the fire to be accidental but
8 have not determined the cause; and

9 WHEREAS, French President Emmanuel Macron has made a pledge
10 to rebuild the cathedral, and millions of dollars of funding and
11 donations have already been pledged to the cause, however,
12 experts believe it may take up to 20 years to complete the
13 repairs; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express
15 condolences to the city of Paris, France, on the destruction of
16 Notre-Dame Cathedral; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge the
18 efforts of the emergency responders who risked their lives to
19 protect a symbol of French cultural and national pride and a
20 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
21 (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.