
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 427 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DeLUCA, BARRAR, READSHAW, RYAN, MURT, POLINCHOCK,
GOODMAN, JOZWIAK, O'MARA, SCHLOSSBERG, DiGIROLAMO, McCLINTON,
BIZZARRO, SONNEY, JOHNSON-HARRELL, SAPPEY, HILL-EVANS,
CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, SCHLEGEL CULVER, LONGIETTI, McNEILL,
YOUNGBLOOD, MALONEY, MENTZER, BURGOS, PASHINSKI, KORTZ,
GALLOWAY, MULLERY, BOYLE, DeLISSIO, SANCHEZ, DERMODY,
SAINATO, KAUFER, NEILSON, KIM AND OBERLANDER,
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating August 25, 2019, as "Senator John McCain Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Senator John S. McCain III was born at Coco Solo
4 Naval Air Station in the Panama Canal Zone on August 29, 1936,
5 to Admiral John and Roberta McCain; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator McCain began his service to our nation after
7 graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1958,
8 followed by postings to Naval Air Station Pensacola and Naval
9 Air Station Corpus Christi, where he graduated from flight
10 school in 1960; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator McCain served as a naval aviator for 22
12 years, including during the Vietnam War, where, upon his
13 arrival, he volunteered for combat duty; and

14 WHEREAS, On July 29, 1967, Senator McCain was on board the

1 U.S.S. Forrestal when a fire erupted, taking the lives of 134
2 sailors and injuring 161 crew members, including Senator McCain,
3 who, during his recovery, again volunteered for combat duty; and

4 WHEREAS, On October 26, 1967, Senator McCain's aircraft took
5 fire during a combat mission from North Vietnamese forces near
6 the city of Hanoi, forcing Senator McCain to eject from his
7 aircraft and land in a nearby lake, resulting in Senator McCain
8 breaking both his arms and his leg; and

9 WHEREAS, After ejecting from his aircraft and sustaining
10 those serious injuries, Senator McCain was taken prisoner by
11 North Vietnamese forces and denied medical treatment and
12 subjected to torture; and

13 WHEREAS, During his time as a prisoner of war, Senator McCain
14 was held at the Hoa Lo Prison, also known as the Hanoi Hilton,
15 where he was placed into solitary confinement for two years; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator McCain's love for the United States only
17 grew during his imprisonment, as he stated:

18 In prison, I fell in love with my country. I had loved
19 her before then, but like most young people, my affection
20 was little more than a simple appreciation for the
21 comforts and privileges most Americans enjoyed and took
22 for granted. It wasn't until I had lost America for a
23 time that I realized how much I loved her;

24 and

25 WHEREAS, Upon his release and recovery, Senator McCain became
26 the Commanding Officer of a flight training squadron at Naval
27 Air Station Cecil Field, and, during this time, the squadron was
28 awarded its first Meritorious Unit Commendation and trained the
29 first woman to fly a light attack aircraft; and

30 WHEREAS, After relinquishing his command, Senator McCain

1 continued his service as a naval liaison to the United States
2 Senate, maintaining his trademark passion, highlighted by his
3 relentless fight against reducing the size of aircraft carriers,
4 fearing such changes would jeopardize the nation's naval
5 capabilities; and

6 WHEREAS, For his service in the Navy, Senator McCain was
7 awarded the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with combat "V" and
8 one Gold Star device, the Bronze Star with combat "V" and two
9 Gold Star devices, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple
10 Heart with one Gold Star device during his distinguished
11 military career; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator McCain's dedication to the United States led
13 him to continue his government service, as he was elected to the
14 United States House of Representatives in 1982 and the United
15 States Senate in 1986; and

16 WHEREAS, In a career that spanned more than three decades,
17 Senator McCain strongly supported a free press, praised
18 bipartisan efforts and fought for the security of the United
19 States; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator McCain's lifelong mission of resisting
21 repressive regimes gave a voice and hope to millions of
22 oppressed people around the world, as evinced by his 47 visits
23 to Iraq and Afghanistan, and over 20 trips to Vietnam where he
24 met his former captors in the Hanoi Hilton; and

25 WHEREAS, Senator McCain served as an unofficial ambassador of
26 the United States wherever he traveled, epitomizing American
27 values to the world; and

28 WHEREAS, In keeping with Senator McCain's outlook, the
29 American people must never surrender or hide from difficult
30 tasks, and instead work to ensure that the United States remains

1 a shining city on a hill that provides hope to the oppressed;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, On August 25, 2018, at 81 years of age, Senator John
4 S. McCain III passed away, leaving behind his wife, Cindy, his
5 seven children, his mother, Roberta, and a legacy of passionate
6 service to the United States and advocacy for a strong American
7 presence around the world; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate August
9 25, 2019, as "Senator John McCain Day" in Pennsylvania and
10 remember the courage, honor, patriotism and citizenship
11 exemplified by Senator John McCain and; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the flag of the United States and of the
13 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be flown at half-mast on August 25,
14 2019, to honor the life of Senator John McCain.