THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 156 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY VOGEL, SCHWANK, CAPPELLETTI, BROOKS, MARTIN, MASTRIANO, ARGALL, PHILLIPS-HILL, MILLER, LAUGHLIN, CULVER, YAW, HUTCHINSON, BREWSTER AND KANE, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 14, 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

18 farming in the post-Civil War economy; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, These individuals, juniors, youths, young adults and

1 adults alike tirelessly serve their communities, embody the core

2 values of the Grange and exemplify the unity and perseverance

3 that the founding members envisioned; and

4 WHEREAS, The story of the Grange continues to enrich our past

5 and shape our future as described in the Grange motto by

6 encouraging unity of purpose, liberty of actions and charity of

7 service; and

8 WHEREAS, This year marks the 150th anniversary of the

9 Pennsylvania State Grange, a significant milestone that deserves

10 recognition and celebration; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate September 18, 2023, as

12 "State Grange Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate celebrate the 150th anniversary of

14 the Pennsylvania State Grange and recognize the profound

15 contributions of the Grange to this Commonwealth.