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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 46 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, GORDNER, BROWNE, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA,  
FOLMER, KILLION, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, PHILLIPS-HILL, REGAN,  
SCAVELLO, K. WARD, COSTA, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, FONTANA,  
SCHWANK, STREET AND L. WILLIAMS, MARCH 20, 2019

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 20, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the American Legion and  
2 recognizing and honoring the American Legion for its years of  
3 dedicated service to the United States Armed Forces service  
4 members, veterans and their families.

5 WHEREAS, The American Legion was created on March 15, 1919,  
6 when members of the American Expeditionary Force held the first  
7 American Legion caucus in Paris; and

8 WHEREAS, The American Legion became officially chartered by  
9 the Congress of the United States on September 16, 1919; and

10 WHEREAS, The American Legion was formed to be a veterans  
11 organization focused on serving members of the United States  
12 Armed Services, veterans and their communities; and

13 WHEREAS, There are currently more than two million members of  
14 the American Legion in more than 13,000 posts in the United  
15 States, Puerto Rico, Mexico, France and the Philippines; and

16 WHEREAS, The American Legion rapidly developed into one of  
17 the most trusted and effective leaders in veterans advocacy; and

18 WHEREAS, The American Legion drafted the first Flag Code

1 during a conference on June 15, 1923, which would later be  
2 enacted by the Congress of the United States in 1942; and

3 WHEREAS, As a result of the efforts of the American Legion,  
4 the United States Veterans Bureau was created on August 9, 1921;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Moreover, the American Legion was instrumental in  
7 the creation of the United States Department of Veterans  
8 Affairs, a Federal cabinet-level department created to ensure  
9 that veterans are represented at the highest level of the  
10 Federal Government; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Legion drafted the GI Bill of Rights  
12 during World War II, which would eventually be signed into law  
13 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the Servicemen's  
14 Readjustment Act of 1944; and

15 WHEREAS, Better known as the original GI bill, the  
16 Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 established hospitals for  
17 veterans, provided college tuition and expense funding for  
18 veterans seeking higher education and made available low-  
19 interest mortgages to assist veterans in purchasing homes; and

20 WHEREAS, The American Legion's efforts in advocating for  
21 improved adjudication for veterans' claims was recognized on  
22 October 16, 1989, with the establishment of the United States  
23 Court of Veterans Appeals, now known as the United States Court  
24 of Appeals for Veterans Claims; and

25 WHEREAS, The American Legion became the single biggest  
26 contributor to the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
27 Wall in Washington, DC, with a contribution of \$1 million; and

28 WHEREAS, Through the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, the  
29 American Legion has awarded over \$1 million in scholarships to  
30 all of the following:

1           (1) children of members of the United States Armed  
2 Forces who died while on active duty on or after September  
3 11, 2001; and

4           (2) children of veterans serving after September 11,  
5 2001, with a VA disability rating of 50% or greater;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, The American Legion has made a great impact on the  
8 youth of our nation through the American Legion Baseball  
9 program, a program in which more than half of all Major League  
10 Baseball players have participated and about 82,000 children  
11 participate each year; and

12           WHEREAS, The American Legion is the chartering organization  
13 for the Boy Scouts of America, chartering 1,700 scouting units  
14 and serving for more than 64,000 Boy Scouts; therefore be it

15           RESOLVED, That the Senate commemorate the 100th anniversary  
16 of the establishment of the American Legion; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the American Legion for its  
18 years of dedicated service to the United States Armed Forces  
19 service members, veterans and their families; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That the Senate call upon all residents of this  
21 Commonwealth to join in the commemoration of the centennial  
22 anniversary of the establishment of the American Legion.