

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 354 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, BANTA, CAUSER, CIRESI, CONKLIN, COOK, CUTLER, ECKER, GREINER, HAMM, HANBIDGE, JOZWIAK, KAUFFMAN, KEPHART, KINSEY, KULIK, LEADBETER, M. MACKENZIE, R. MACKENZIE, MALAGARI, MARCELL, McNEILL, MERSKI, MOUL, NEILSON, OBERLANDER, PICKETT, SCHMITT, STAATS, STENDER, VITALI, GILLEN, BERNSTINE, D. WILLIAMS AND SMITH, MARCH 26, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 26, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 12, 2024, as "Volunteer Firefighter Day" in
2 Pennsylvania to honor the brave men and women who make
3 sacrifices to protect their community as volunteer
4 firefighters.

5 WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters hear the fire alarm at any
6 hour of the day or night and rush from their homes to fight a
7 house fire, save passengers in a car accident or aid in other
8 emergency situations; and

9 WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters have witnessed deep tragedy
10 but also joy and relief when they have protected someone from
11 harm; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a rich history in volunteer
13 firefighting; and

14 WHEREAS, Benjamin Franklin formed the first volunteer
15 firefighting force, called the Union Fire Company, in 1736 and
16 served as America's first volunteer fire chief; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1820, Marina Betts became the first recorded
2 female volunteer firefighter in Pittsburgh, and volunteered for
3 almost 20 years according to the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review; and

4 WHEREAS, The number of volunteer firefighters in this
5 Commonwealth is between 36,000 and 38,000, but that number has
6 dropped from 300,000 in 1975; and

7 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth must find ways to promote
8 volunteer firefighting, especially in our rural communities;
9 therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April
11 12, 2024, as "Volunteer Firefighter Day" in Pennsylvania to
12 honor the brave men and women who make sacrifices to protect
13 their communities as volunteer firefighters.