

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 20, 2019, as "Forest Firefighter Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Department of Conservation and Natural
4 Resources' Bureau of Forestry is tasked with protecting life,
5 property and natural resources in this Commonwealth from
6 wildfires; and

7 WHEREAS, To meet this challenge, Pennsylvania firefighters
8 are trained and qualified under national wildland standards to
9 function as either a member of an organized incident management
10 team or a member of a wildland crew; and

11 WHEREAS, Special equipment is needed for this undertaking,
12 and there are several avenues for the local firefighting
13 agencies to obtain the necessary items; and

14 WHEREAS, Under the Federal Excess Property Program the Bureau
15 of Forestry acquires excess Federal equipment and assigns the
16 equipment to rural fire departments as a loan; and

17 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Forestry also acquires excess military

1 equipment and transfers the equipment to fire departments and
2 emergency service agencies; and

3 WHEREAS, There are several grant programs available from
4 Federal and State sources for local firefighter programs as
5 well; and

6 WHEREAS, When called for duty to fight a wildfire, qualified
7 crews gather at the mobilization center at the Lower Swatara
8 Fire Department in Middletown, Pennsylvania; and

9 WHEREAS, While dispatched to a wildfire, which typically
10 lasts between 14 and 16 days, the firefighters are required to
11 have their own tents and Bureau of Forestry-provided personal
12 protection equipment, which includes a fire shelter, boots,
13 gloves, hard hat, eye protection and flame resistant clothing;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Since 1973, more than 150 crews of 20 individuals
16 each have been mobilized for deployment to aid with wildfire
17 suppression and hurricane emergency aid throughout the lower 48
18 states and Alaska; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2017, 289 personnel from Pennsylvania assisted 13
20 states with wildland fires, and 30 wildfires were suppressed
21 with aid from Pennsylvania air operations; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate March
23 20, 2019, as "Forest Firefighter Day" in Pennsylvania.