A RESOLUTION

Recognizing September 21, 2017, as "International Day of Peace"; expressing support of its ideals and principles; and encouraging Pennsylvanians to meaningfully engage at this worldwide event.

WHEREAS, The ideal of peace encompasses the deepest hopes of all peoples and remains humanity's guiding inspiration; and

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth was founded by William Penn on the principles of peace, freedom and equality; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations believes in this same vision and works to promote the ideals and principles of peace and human rights across the globe; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations' "International Day of Peace," ("Peace Day") established in 1981, offers a global opportunity on September 21 to "commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace within and among all nations and peoples" and to take meaningful and practical action for peace; and

WHEREAS, On September 21, individuals, organizations and governments come together through engaging in diverse "Peace
WHEREAS, Meaningful engagement in "Peace Day" contributes to creating a culture of peace; and

WHEREAS, "Peace Day Philly," the Philadelphia-region initiative that encourages broad-based participation in "Peace Day," promotes and offers wide-ranging programs related to personal, local and global peace during the week in which "Peace Day" falls; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, "Peace Day Philly" features:

(1) youth peacebuilder training;
(2) talks and workshops related to:
   (i) refugees globally and locally;
   (ii) combating discrimination and racism;
   (iii) mindfulness and activism; and
   (iv) the state of global peacefulness;
(3) peace crane folding;
(4) a student march;
(5) a climate change film;
(6) peace concerts;
(7) art exhibitions; and
(8) multicultural events;

and

WHEREAS, "Peace Day" activities take place not only in the Philadelphia region, but in cities and towns across this Commonwealth, nation and world; and

WHEREAS, The universal statement shared at "Peace Day" events, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," brings together individuals of all faiths, backgrounds and cultures; and
treat the refugees of the world with respect and compassion; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio
Guterres asks the world, on "Peace Day" and beyond, to "remember
that millions of vulnerable members of our society, many of whom
have lost everything, need our understanding and assistance";
and

WHEREAS, Secretary-General Guterres also reminds us, in his
100-day "Countdown to International Day of Peace" message, that
"our duty as a human family is to replace fear with kindness";
therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize September 21, 2017, as
"International Day of Peace"; express support for its ideals and
principles; and encourage Pennsylvanians to meaningfully engage
at this worldwide event.