

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the ideals of Peace Day, September 21, 2014.

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

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

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

9 WHEREAS, The United Nations International Day of Peace,
10 established in 1981, offers an annual opportunity on September
11 21 for countries, cities, states, communities and individuals to
12 "commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace within and among
13 all nations and peoples"; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2001, the United Nations unanimously established
15 the United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21 to
16 be observed each year in promotion of global ceasefire and
17 nonviolence; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2009, the United States Senate passed S. Res. 274
2 (2009), a resolution expressing its support for the goals and
3 ideals celebrated on Peace Day and for "continuing efforts to
4 raise global awareness of the goals of Peace Day and to engage
5 all sectors of society in the peaceful observance of the
6 International Day of Peace"; and

7 WHEREAS, On September 21, 2014, people in cities across the
8 world come together through diverse peace education activities,
9 nonviolent skill-building, music, marches, spiritual activities,
10 arts projects, community events, environmental efforts and
11 intercultural dialogues, all for the purpose of forwarding a
12 culture of peace; and

13 WHEREAS, Peace Day observances are wide ranging, with many
14 organizations and cities across this Commonwealth, from
15 Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, creating practical acts of peace for
16 our citizens to further understand and actively participate in a
17 movement of nonviolence; and

18 WHEREAS, Peace Day Philly, a Philadelphia-region initiative
19 that encourages broad-based participation in the International
20 Day of Peace, calls upon all public officials, organizations,
21 neighborhoods, community groups and individuals to actively
22 engage in this global day of local opportunity. More than 30
23 diverse peace-related events will take place across the region
24 from September 15 through September 21. More than 25 additional
25 peace activities are being planned by the Philadelphia Police
26 Department in districts across Philadelphia; and

27 WHEREAS, On September 21 at 12 noon in all time zones, people
28 of all nationalities and religions will observe a minute of
29 silence for peace; and

30 WHEREAS, The United Nations' global theme for Peace Day 2014

1 is "Right of Peoples to Peace." This theme relates to a United
2 Nations Declaration that proclaims "the peoples of our planet
3 have the sacred right to peace," and underscores the critical
4 relationship between human rights and peace; and

5 WHEREAS, The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon
6 reflected in his 100-day countdown statement: "History has shown
7 that, no matter how fierce, conflict can end, peace can prevail
8 and reconciliation can triumph. On 21 September...people will
9 broadcast this essential message and will celebrate the value of
10 human diversity and the strength of our unity"; and

11 WHEREAS, Conflict resolution and transformation, mediation,
12 mindfulness training and many other skill-based aspects of peace
13 education, as well as intercultural dialogue and other forms of
14 diversity and global awareness activities, are critical to the
15 development of peace-building skills and global citizenship
16 among children and youth; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate express its support for the goals
18 and ideals celebrated worldwide on September 21, 2014, and
19 encourage and commend all citizens of this Commonwealth who
20 actively promote and participate in diverse peace, nonviolence
21 and unity-building activities in observance of the International
22 Day of Peace.

