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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 281 Session of  
2026

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INTRODUCED BY DUSH, ROTHMAN, MASTRIANO, ROBINSON, VOGEL,  
PHILLIPS-HILL, MARTIN, J. WARD, PENNYCUICK AND BAKER,  
APRIL 17, 2026

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 17, 2026

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A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the anniversary of Operation El Dorado Canyon.

2 WHEREAS, On April 14, 1986, the United States launched  
3 Operation El Dorado Canyon; and

4 WHEREAS, Operation El Dorado Canyon was a retaliatory United  
5 States military mission aimed at terrorist operations led by  
6 then Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi; and

7 WHEREAS, Operation El Dorado was carried out in direct  
8 response to the bombing of the La Belle Discotheque in West  
9 Berlin, a violent attack which ultimately killed two American  
10 soldiers and injured at least 230 individuals, which included  
11 more than 50 American service members; and

12 WHEREAS, The mission was planned primarily by the United  
13 States Air Force's 48th Tactical Fighter Wing based in England;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Twenty-four United States Air Force F-111s departed  
16 Royal Air Force (RAF) Lakenheath along with five EF-111s from  
17 RAF Upper Heyford; and

1       WHEREAS, The F-111s faced a 3,500-mile flight with four  
2 aerial refuelings each way due to flight restrictions; and

3       WHEREAS, As the aircraft approached Libya, two United States  
4 Navy aircraft carriers, the USS Coral Sea and the USS America,  
5 launched 14 A-6E strike aircraft and 12 F/A-18 and A-7 strike  
6 support aircraft; and

7       WHEREAS, In close coordination with the United States Navy,  
8 aircraft launched from the carriers effectively suppressed  
9 Libyan air defenses and electronic countermeasures began shortly  
10 before the attacks, neutralizing Libyan radar and missile  
11 systems; and

12       WHEREAS, After Libya's air defenses were rendered useless,  
13 Navy aircraft struck targets near Benghazi, while Air Force F-  
14 111s attacked strategic sites in Tripoli, including military  
15 barracks, a terrorist training camp and a military airport; and

16       WHEREAS, Tragically, one F-111 was shot down, resulting in  
17 the deaths of both crew members; and

18       WHEREAS, Search and rescue efforts continued for over a day  
19 but ultimately failed to recover the pilots; and

20       WHEREAS, Overall, the United States military recognized  
21 Operation El Dorado Canyon as a successful operation and one  
22 which demonstrated the Air Force's ability to conduct very  
23 precise long-range bombing strikes; and

24       WHEREAS, The success of this operation and its show of force  
25 resulted in ending international terrorism based in Libya for  
26 decades and forced Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to cease his support  
27 of international terrorism; and

28       WHEREAS, In the long term, the operation had lasting  
29 significance for United States military strategy, exhibiting  
30 this country's ability to achieve global reach on the ever-

1 changing battlefield; and

2 WHEREAS, Equally as important, the lessons learned from  
3 technical and operational shortcomings were later applied  
4 successfully, particularly during Operation Desert Storm in  
5 1991, where improved F-111 targeting systems proved highly  
6 effective; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate commemorate the anniversary of  
8 Operation El Dorado Canyon.