



SPONSOR: Sen. McDowell & Rep. DiPinto
Sens. Henry & Marshall; Reps.
Williams, Plant, Scott, Keeley &
Houghton & Reps. Spence, Brady,
Vansant, D. Ennis, Lofink, Ewing,
Miro, B. Ennis, Valihura,
Buckworth

DELAWARE STATE SENATE

140th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE THOMAS PATRICK CONATY, JR., A WILMINGTON POLICE OFFICER WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN THE LINE OF DUTY, UPON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF CONATY PARK.

1 WHEREAS, Wilmington Detective Thomas Patrick Conaty, Jr., while on routine patrol at 2:00
2 a.m. on the 26th Day of December, 1946, at Seventh and King Streets, was shot and fatally wounded by
3 an assailant; and

4 WHEREAS, Tom Conaty was born in Wilmington on March 12, 1916, the son of Thomas Patrick
5 Conaty, Sr., and his wife, the former Elizabeth Curran, both immigrants from Ireland, where they were
6 native to the counties of Cavan and Tyrone respectively; and

7 WHEREAS, Tom was raised at the family home along Gilpin Avenue in the Forty Acres with his
8 sisters Mary Elizabeth and Theresa, and his brothers, Francis P. and John (both now deceased); and

9 WHEREAS, on the First Day of April, 1940, Tom joined the Wilmington Police Department as a
10 patrolman, being promoted to the rank of Detective after five years of service; and

11 WHEREAS, Detective Conaty was on patrol in the area of Seventh and King Streets in the early
12 morning hours of December 26, 1946, when word came of a burglary of a Wilmington gun shop; and

13 WHEREAS, Detective Conaty stopped a 17-year-old boy for questioning, whereupon a struggle
14 ensued and the youth pulling out a firearm, shot the young police officer and left him to die on the
15 sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, Detective Conaty's assailant, a juvenile offender on holiday leave from the Ferris School when he and another boy committed the burglary, was later captured after the largest manhunt in Delaware history and convicted of murder; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this tragic act of violence, Detective Conaty, a young husband and father, was struck down in the prime of his life, leaving to survive him his wife, Louise, and his three sons, Thomas, III, William and Gerald; and

WHEREAS, Detective Conaty was one in a long line of Wilmington police officers to have given his life in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, the tragic death of Thomas Conaty, and those other police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, serves as a continuing reminder of the profound debt of gratitude which we, as citizens, owe to those men and women who serve their fellow citizens as police officers in Wilmington and elsewhere across Delaware and the nation; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday morning, April 29th, 2000, friends, family members and others will gather to dedicate "Conaty Park" in the 1600 Block of Gilpin Avenue in Detective Conaty's memory;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 140th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the members do hereby honor the memory of Detective Thomas Patrick Conaty, Jr., of the Wilmington Police Department, upon the occasion of this most appropriate gesture in naming a park in his honor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members do hereby express their deep appreciation to the Conaty family, who also made enormous sacrifices as a result of the tragic loss of their loved one, and to the families of all police officers who must live each day in the knowledge that their own loved ones could be taken from them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appropriate copy of this Senate Concurrent Resolution be presented to the family of the late Thomas Patrick Conaty, Jr.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution honors the memory of the late Detective Thomas Patrick Conaty, Jr., of the Wilmington Police Force who lost his life in the line of duty on December 26, 1946, upon the occasion of the dedication of Conaty Park on Gilpin Avenue in his honor.