

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 564 Session of
2002

INTRODUCED BY J. WILLIAMS, ARMSTRONG, BELARDI, BISHOP,
CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, COLEMAN, CORRIGAN, COSTA, COY,
CREIGHTON, DALEY, DeWEESE, DONATUCCI, D. EVANS, J. EVANS,
FICHTER, FORCIER, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HORSEY,
JAMES, KIRKLAND, LEDERER, MANDERINO, McCALL, McGILL,
McILHATTAN, MELIO, MYERS, OLIVER, PALLONE, PERZEL, PHILLIPS,
READSHAW, ROBINSON, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SANTONI, STABACK, STURLA,
THOMAS, TRELLO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATERS, WATSON,
WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, RUBLEY, SHANER, CRUZ, HERSHEY,
TRAVAGLIO, EACHUS, BLAUM, J. TAYLOR, JOSEPHS, LAUGHLIN AND
BASTIAN, APRIL 30, 2002

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 30, 2002

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 30, 2002, as "Reverend Leon Sullivan
2 Remembrance Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Reverend Leon Sullivan, a civil rights crusader,
4 minister and business leader born in Charleston, West Virginia,
5 on October 16, 1922, represented courage, compassion, truth and
6 social and economic justice; and

7 WHEREAS, Rev. Sullivan was ordained at 17 years of age, while
8 finishing his college degree at the all African-American West
9 Virginia State College and eventually in 1943 moved to New York
10 City where he caught the eye of then Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia,
11 who hired him to work on programs to reduce crime among the
12 city's youth; and

13 WHEREAS, In the early 1960s, Rev. Sullivan returned to grass-

1 roots ministry by becoming the pastor of Zion Baptist Church in
2 Philadelphia, where he organized the ministers of more than 400
3 African-American churches and decided on a nonviolent boycott,
4 known as the "Philadelphia Boycotts," of local companies that
5 would not hire African Americans; and

6 WHEREAS, The boycotts worked, and jobs eventually were
7 offered to people of all races; and

8 WHEREAS, Rev. Sullivan established the Opportunities
9 Industrialization Center, Inc., in 1964 to provide job training
10 that has to date trained about 2 million people in 142 centers
11 worldwide; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1971, Rev. Sullivan became the first African-
13 American board member at General Motors Corporation and devised
14 the Sullivan Principles, which he described as a "code that
15 companies of America and the world came to follow to end
16 apartheid peacefully, starting with the workplace," to put
17 economic pressure on the South African Government to end
18 apartheid; and

19 WHEREAS, Rev. Sullivan retired from his full-time ministry at
20 Zion Baptist Church in 1988 and moved to Arizona, where he
21 founded the International Foundation for Education and Self
22 Help, for self-help training programs, with programs in 30
23 different countries; and

24 WHEREAS, Rev. Sullivan has been honored for his achievements
25 throughout his lifetime, including being named by Life magazine
26 as one of the "100 Outstanding Young Adults in 1963," awarded
27 the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1992 by President George H.
28 W. Bush and recognized in 1999 by President Bill Clinton, who
29 presented him with the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award; and

30 WHEREAS, In 1999, along with United Nations Secretary General

1 Kofi Annan, Rev. Sullivan launched the Global Principles of
2 Corporate Social Responsibility, which call for multinational
3 corporations to play a larger role in combating racism,
4 discrimination and social and economic injustice; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. Leon Sullivan died of leukemia on April 24,
6 2001, at 78 years of age; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April
8 30, 2002, as "Reverend Leon Sullivan Remembrance Day" in
9 Pennsylvania.