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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 705 Session of  
2002

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INTRODUCED BY DeWEESE, RYAN, LEVDANSKY, DERMODY, SHANER,  
SAINATO, COSTA, READSHAW, TRAVAGLIO, PIPPY, COLEMAN, HARHAI,  
STURLA, PALLONE AND WALKO, OCTOBER 8, 2002

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ADOPTED, OCTOBER 8, 2002

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A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the National Council of the Lewis and Clark  
2 Bicentennial designate the planned events in Pittsburgh at  
3 the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center  
4 from July 15 through August 31, 2003, as a national signature  
5 event.

6 WHEREAS, Nearly 200 years ago President Thomas Jefferson,  
7 with congressional support, sought to furnish an expedition to  
8 study native cultures, investigate geographic features, discover  
9 useful plants and animals and inform Native Americans of the new  
10 sovereignty of the United States, which had recently been

11 acquired from France as a result of the Louisiana Purchase; and

12 WHEREAS, The president turned to his young private secretary,  
13 Captain Meriwether Lewis, to provide leadership in this  
14 endeavor; and

15 WHEREAS, Lewis, joined by his co-commander William Clark,  
16 began an exploration to find the source of the Missouri River  
17 and tributaries and to find a suitable water passage to the  
18 western ocean for the purpose of commerce and exploration; and

19 WHEREAS, This great voyage of discovery opened up the

1 American West and widened the horizons of America's manifest  
2 destiny; and

3 WHEREAS, The Lewis and Clark Expedition increased the young  
4 nation's knowledge of and pride in our precious natural  
5 resources; and

6 WHEREAS, The expedition helped the nation gain a better  
7 understanding of America's native cultures; and

8 WHEREAS, Most importantly, Lewis and Clark's indomitable  
9 spirit and courage stand as a testament to American  
10 resourcefulness, ingenuity and courage; and

11 WHEREAS, This expedition was a major event in the history of  
12 the United States and helped shape the cultural and geographic  
13 boundaries of our country; and

14 WHEREAS, The respect fostered between Native American tribes  
15 and members of the expedition represents a fine example of  
16 diplomacy and relationships between divergent nations and  
17 cultures; and

18 WHEREAS, Lewis chose Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the  
19 expedition's point of departure, not just for its fortuitous  
20 confluence of rivers, but because only in Pittsburgh and its  
21 environs could he find skilled workmen to build the keelboat he  
22 needed for a transcontinental voyage; and

23 WHEREAS, Efforts to commemorate the 200th anniversary of this  
24 great adventure have been organized throughout the nation; and

25 WHEREAS, American communities from Charlottesville, Virginia  
26 to Astoria, Oregon, have been selected by the National Council  
27 of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial as sites for national  
28 heritage signature events during the bicentennial commemoration  
29 of the Lewis and Clark Expedition from 2003 through 2006; and

30 WHEREAS, Each community was chosen for its place in the

1 expedition's chronology, its historical relevance, cultural  
2 diversity, tribal involvement, geographic location and  
3 sponsoring organizations' capacity; and

4 WHEREAS, The National Council of the Lewis and Clark  
5 Bicentennial has designated 15 national signature events to be  
6 highlighted in the three-year celebration; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the pivotal role that  
9 Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania played in this epic story  
10 and conclude that the bicentennial must not pass unnoticed in  
11 this entire area; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives respectfully  
13 request that the National Council of the Lewis and Clark  
14 Bicentennial designate the planned events in Pittsburgh at the  
15 Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center from July  
16 15 through August 31, 2003, as a national signature event; and  
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
19 the President of the United States, the Director of the  
20 Smithsonian Institution, the President of the National  
21 Geographic Society and to each member of Congress from  
22 Pennsylvania.