

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 417 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY ARMSTRONG AND BRUBAKER, OCTOBER 8, 2008

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating November 8, 2008, as "Charles Demuth Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, World-renowned artist and Pennsylvania native,
4 Charles Demuth was born on November 8, 1883, and he specialized
5 in painting water colors and, later in life, switched to oil
6 painting, developing a style of painting known as Precisionism
7 or Cubist Realism; and

8 WHEREAS, The Demuth family has a Germanic heritage and, upon
9 arrival in the United States, they settled in Bethlehem; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Demuth's great-great-great-grandfather moved to
11 Lancaster and started a small tobacco shop on East King Street;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Demuth was born in Lancaster, and he grew up in
14 a house next to the tobacco shop; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Demuth graduated from Franklin & Marshall
16 Academy and thereafter studied at Drexel University and the
17 Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia and at the

1 Julian Academy in Paris, France; and

2 WHEREAS, Although plagued by illness all of his life, Mr.
3 Demuth produced more than one thousand works of art, including
4 the well-known "My Egypt," which was inspired by grain elevators
5 in Lancaster; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite studying and painting in Philadelphia, New
7 York, Provincetown, Paris and Bermuda, Mr. Demuth created most
8 of his work at his home in Lancaster in a second-floor studio
9 overlooking his mother's garden, which remains a garden today;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Today, the 18th century properties on East King
12 Street in Lancaster are among the oldest properties in America
13 and the Demuth Home, which once served as a Colonial-era tavern,
14 now houses the Demuth Museum, the Demuth Archives and Library,
15 as well as some of the Demuth Art Collection; and

16 WHEREAS, The Demuth Tobacco Shop, founded in 1770, is the
17 oldest, continuously operated tobacco shop in the United States;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Demuth's artwork has been on display at art
20 museums all over the world, including the New York Museum of
21 Modern Art, the National Museum of Modern Art in France and the
22 Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate November 8, 2008, the
24 125th anniversary of his birth, as "Charles Demuth Day" in
25 Pennsylvania.