

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 779 Session of  
2010

INTRODUCED BY GINGRICH, BELFANTI, BEYER, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE,  
CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CUTLER, DELOZIER,  
DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FLECK,  
GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, GRUCELA, HELM,  
HESS, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, M. KELLER, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KOTIK,  
KULA, MAJOR, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, MELIO, MICCARELLI, MILLARD,  
MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PAYNE, PHILLIPS,  
PICKETT, RAPP, REED, ROCK, ROHRER, ROSS, SCAVELLO, SEIP,  
STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TRUE, TURZAI, VEREB, VULAKOVICH  
AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 27, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL  
27, 2010

## A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating the Borough of Palmyra, Lebanon County, on the  
2 occurrence of the 250th anniversary of its founding.

3 WHEREAS, Originally, Palmyra was inhabited by the Lenni  
4 Lenape Indians who were called the Delawares by early settlers;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The first settlers, who were of European descent,  
7 came to the Palmyra area in approximately 1650 as explorers and  
8 traders; and

9 WHEREAS, The first settlers in the area were Scotch Irish and  
10 German Palatinates, commonly referred to as "Pennsylvania  
11 Dutch"; and

12 WHEREAS, William Eckert settled along the road that would  
13 become Main Street in the early 1700s and the area became known

1 as Eckert's Settlement until 1731; and

2 WHEREAS, By 1763, Johann Palm, known as John Palm, moved into  
3 the area with his family, settling in Swatara and two years  
4 later, in 1766, he purchased 100 acres, which is now known as  
5 downtown Palmyra; and

6 WHEREAS, John Palm also practiced medicine, farmed and  
7 traded; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1777, at 64 years of age, he became a battlefield  
9 surgeon in the Battle of Brandywine Creek; and

10 WHEREAS, John Palm died at the age of 85 in 1799, when the  
11 community was already known as Palmstown; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1804, Palmstown established its own post office,  
13 and on October 1, 1810, the name was officially changed to  
14 Palmyra; and

15 WHEREAS, The name Palmyra is believed to have been taken from  
16 a Biblical passage, mentioning an ancient caravan city in what  
17 is now Syria; and

18 WHEREAS, The Union Canal, located several miles north of  
19 Palmyra, was completed in 1827; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1857, the first steam engine of the newly formed  
21 Lebanon Valley Railroad came through Palmyra, providing a  
22 cheaper and more efficient means of transportation; and

23 WHEREAS, As commerce increased, the Palmyra Bank was opened  
24 in 1886; and

25 WHEREAS, Samuel Gingrich established the first shoe factory  
26 called the Palmyra Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Company in 1888,  
27 which became the dominant industry in Palmyra; and

28 WHEREAS, In 1899, a trolley line was built in Palmyra by  
29 Milton S. Hershey which was known as the Hummelstown and  
30 Campbelltown Street Railway; and

1 WHEREAS, The nationally renowned Seltzer's Bologna brand was  
2 founded in 1902 as the Palmyra Bologna Company; and

3 WHEREAS, The earliest schools in the Palmyra area were church  
4 schools, the first one being established on a gift of land from  
5 Johannes Bindnagle in 1753 in a log building; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1887, Professor Peter B. Witmer founded the  
7 Witmer Academy located at Main and College Streets; and

8 WHEREAS, By 1913, the town of Palmyra incorporated into a  
9 borough and was no longer governed by North Londonderry  
10 Township; and

11 WHEREAS, The Palmyra Borough School District was formed in  
12 1914 when the board of directors of the encompassing North  
13 Londonderry Township relinquished control of the schools within  
14 the newly formed Palmyra Borough; and

15 WHEREAS, By 1962, North Londonderry, South Londonderry and  
16 Palmyra Borough were finally joined to create the current  
17 Palmyra Area School District; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1909, Palmyra celebrated 100 years of the  
19 established post office named as Palmyra; and

20 WHEREAS, Palmyra's 150th anniversary was celebrated in 1910  
21 as Old Home Week; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives congratulate the  
23 Borough of Palmyra on the occurrence of the 250th anniversary of  
24 its founding.