

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 948 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY WATERS, BISHOP, GEORGE, MURPHY, BEYER, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, BROWN, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DeLUCA, DePASQUALE, DONATUCCI, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARKINS, HOUGHTON, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, MAHONEY, MANN, MILLARD, MILLER, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, READSHAW, ROCK, SAINATO, SANTARSIERO, SCAVELLO, SEIP, SIPTROTH, STABACK, SWANGER, THOMAS, VULAKOVICH, WAGNER, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD AND MURT, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the recent cross burnings in Woodland, Pennsylvania,
2 and in Bolivar, Pennsylvania, and urging an end to racial
3 hatred, hate crimes, racial intolerance and discrimination.

4 WHEREAS, All people in the United States, regardless of race,
5 ethnicity, nationality or social or economic condition, have the
6 sovereign right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as
7 stated in the United States Declaration of Independence; and

8 WHEREAS, Cross burnings, or cross lightings, are a practice
9 commonly associated with the Ku Klux Klan, who are branded for
10 burning crosses near the homes of those they wish to intimidate;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Cross burnings are a symbol of oppression and a
13 prelude to violence against African Americans and other
14 minorities and are used to intimidate, incite fear and to
15 terrorize their victims. Cross burning is also a sign of racial

1 intolerance, contrary to America's democratic principles of
2 equality and the right of all people to be treated fairly; and

3 WHEREAS, In November 2009, in Bolivar, Pennsylvania, two
4 crosses were burned on the lawn of an African-American teenager
5 and on August 21, 2010, two crosses were burned in Woodland,
6 Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, on the lawn of a Caucasian
7 family after inviting an African-American friend into their
8 home; and

9 WHEREAS, The Clearfield County Office of District Attorney
10 has filed criminal charges against a suspect and Federal
11 officials have indicted three men with charges related to the
12 cross burning in Bolivar, Pennsylvania; and

13 WHEREAS, Cross burning and any other form of racist behavior,
14 discrimination and intolerance are incompatible with America's
15 democratic philosophy and rule of law; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives unequivocally
17 condemn and denounce cross burning or cross lighting and all
18 forms of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance;
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express profound
21 indignation and regret that cross burning still occurs in this
22 Commonwealth and urge an end to all racial hatred and hate
23 crimes against humanity.