

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 867 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, ROEBUCK, KIRKLAND, V. BROWN, BISHOP, WATERS, MYERS, THOMAS, PRESTON, PARKER, YOUNGBLOOD, JAMES, D. COSTA, P. COSTA, DEASY, DeLUCA, DERMODY, FRANKEL, GERGELY, KORTZ, KOTIK, MARKOSEK, MATZIE, RAVENSTAHL, SCHMOTZER, M. SMITH, WHEATLEY, WHITE, TURZAI, MUSTIO, SACCONI, MAHER, OBERLANDER, BAKER, BARBIN, BEAR, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, COHEN, DALEY, DiGIROLAMO, ELLIS, EVERETT, FLECK, GEORGE, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GROVE, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HESS, M. K. KELLER, KULA, MAHONEY, MALONEY, MARSHALL, MILLARD, MIRABITO, O'NEILL, NEUMAN, PASHINSKI, PYLE, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, K. SMITH, SONNEY, STERN, SWANGER AND VEREB, SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the contributions that Pittsburgh Steelers player
2 Ryan Clark has made to the fight against sickle cell anemia.

3 WHEREAS, Ryan Clark, a safety for the Pittsburgh Steelers,
4 has suffered from many side effects of sickle cell anemia during
5 his career, including being unable to play in high altitudes and
6 losing his spleen and gallbladder; and

7 WHEREAS, Clark teamed up with the University of Pittsburgh's
8 Vascular Medicine Institute on a campaign to raise awareness and
9 funds for the fight against the potentially fatal disease; and

10 WHEREAS, Sickle cell anemia affects millions of people
11 throughout the world. While it is more common in people whose
12 ancestors come from sub-Saharan Africa, cases have been reported
13 in Mediterranean countries as well as the Middle East; and

1 WHEREAS, Round, red blood cells are needed to transport
2 oxygen to all parts of the body while removing carbon dioxide
3 from other tissues to the lungs where it can be exhaled; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1910, Dr. James B. Herrick released a report on
5 his discovery of thin, sickle-shaped and crescent-shaped red
6 blood cells after viewing a blood smear of a young man from the
7 West Indies whose symptoms included shortness of breath,
8 palpitations and anemia. This report, entitled "Peculiar
9 Elongated and Sickle-shaped Red Blood Corpuscles in a Case of
10 Severe Anemia," was the first account in medical literature
11 describing the disease; and

12 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder
13 that, if left untreated, can cause serious health problems. Red
14 blood cells take on a sickle shape which can significantly
15 impede their ability to flow through blood vessels. The reduced
16 blood flow may injure lung tissue in the short term. Over a
17 longer period of time, the harm is more extensive, compromising
18 vital organs, such as the liver, spleen and kidneys; and

19 WHEREAS, Sickle cell anemia generally occurs in approximately
20 1 in 500 African-American births, and 1 in 900 Hispanic-American
21 births, afflicting approximately 72,000 persons in the United
22 States, according to the American Sickle Cell Anemia
23 Association; and

24 WHEREAS, There are approximately two million Americans who
25 carry the sickle cell trait and are generally healthy,
26 exhibiting few symptoms. However, this trait occurs in 1 in 12
27 African Americans and 1 in 16 Hispanic Americans; and

28 WHEREAS, There is currently no universal cure for sickle cell
29 anemia, but research is working to identify and develop
30 effective treatments; and

1 WHEREAS, A public that is informed and educated about sickle
2 cell anemia can improve the chances for early diagnosis and
3 treatment of this disease; and

4 WHEREAS, Clark is hopeful that, with enough support and
5 awareness of the disease, there will be a cure found and many
6 lives saved; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
8 contributions that Pittsburgh Steelers player Ryan Clark has
9 made to the fight against sickle cell anemia.