
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 504 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY PAINTER, LUCAS, KOTIK, KIRKLAND, MILLARD, COHEN,
DIGIROLAMO, READSHAW, MAHONEY, KORTZ, YOUNGBLOOD, D. COSTA,
ROCK, PARKER, GOODMAN, MAJOR, D. MILLER, MURT, GINGRICH AND
CALTAGIRONE, OCTOBER 15, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 15, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alfred
2 Bester, renowned science fiction author, on December 18,
3 2013.

4 WHEREAS, Alfred Bester was born on December 18, 1913, in the
5 Borough of Manhattan, New York City; and

6 WHEREAS, Alfred Bester was a first-generation American whose
7 hardworking parents provided a modest home for their two
8 children; and

9 WHEREAS, Alfred Bester attended the University of
10 Pennsylvania, where he became a member of the prestigious
11 Philomathean Society, which is one of the oldest literary
12 societies in America, and he graduated in 1935 with a degree in
13 the humanities and psychology; and

14 WHEREAS, Alfred Bester went on to undertake further studies
15 in law at Columbia University and protozoology at New York
16 University, although he did not complete a postgraduate degree
17 at either school; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1936, Alfred "Alfie" Bester married Rolly Goulko,
2 an actress who achieved success on Broadway and in radio and
3 television and who became an accomplished advertising executive
4 later in her career; and

5 WHEREAS, At 25 years of age and after moving on from his
6 university studies, Alfred Bester began working in the field of
7 public relations; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1939, Alfred Bester entered an amateur writing
9 competition sponsored by *Thrilling Wonder Stories* magazine with
10 his short story, *The Broken Axiom*, which became the winning
11 entry; and

12 WHEREAS, Alfred Bester's distinguished writing and editing
13 career spanned the years between 1939 and 1981; and

14 WHEREAS, Alfred Bester was a well-respected and prolific
15 writer of science fiction novels, short stories, comic books and
16 strips and scripts for television and radio; and

17 WHEREAS, Among Alfred Bester's classic science fiction novels
18 are *The Demolished Man*, published in 1952, and *The Stars My*
19 *Destination*, published in 1956, which are considered to be among
20 the best science fiction novels ever written; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1953, the very first Hugo Award, which is science
22 fiction's most prestigious award, was given to Alfred Bester for
23 his first novel, *The Demolished Man*, and in subsequent years he
24 was nominated for four additional Hugo Awards; and

25 WHEREAS, Alfred Bester and his wife moved to Ottsville,
26 Pennsylvania, in the early 1980s and he later died at nearby
27 Doylestown on September 30, 1987, at 73 years of age, his wife
28 having preceded him in death in 1984; and

29 WHEREAS, Not long before his passing, Alfred Bester was
30 informed that the Science Fiction Writers of America planned to

1 give him its ninth Memorial Grand Master Award, which was
2 presented posthumously in 1988; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2001, Alfred Bester was inducted into the Science
4 Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame; and

5 WHEREAS, Alfred Bester is considered by science fiction
6 aficionados to be among several highly regarded writers in the
7 genre who helped to invent modern science fiction; therefore be
8 it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
10 100th anniversary of the birth of renowned science fiction
11 author Alfred Bester.