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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 805 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY MURT, HARHART, HARKINS, READSHAW, K. BOYLE,  
LONGIETTI, VEREB, KIRKLAND, ROZZI, MAJOR, MCGEEHAN, COHEN,  
KINSEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER, MILLARD, D. MILLER, SCHREIBER,  
MCNEILL, DIGIROLAMO, PAINTER, PARKER, NEILSON, THOMAS,  
AUMENT, B. BOYLE, BISHOP, DAVIDSON, ENGLISH, MIRABITO,  
SCHLOSSBERG, O'NEILL, LUCAS, ROSS, HAHN, CLAY, WHITE,  
FRANKEL, O'BRIEN, MAHONEY, CALTAGIRONE, GODSHALL, MILNE,  
R. BROWN, GIBBONS, OBERLANDER, PASHINSKI, ROEBUCK,  
YOUNGBLOOD, SWANGER, GROVE, MENTZER, CUTLER, WATSON, MATZIE,  
SANTARSIERO, MCCARTER, MARSICO, DENLINGER, KORTZ, GOODMAN AND  
CLYMER, APRIL 28, 2014

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 28, 2014

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the year 2014 as the 50th anniversary of the passage  
2 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

3 WHEREAS, On June 11, 1963, President John F. Kennedy called  
4 for legislation "giving all Americans the right to be served in  
5 facilities which are open to the public - hotels, restaurants,  
6 theaters, retail stores, and similar establishments," as well as  
7 "greater protection for the right to vote."; and

8 WHEREAS, Following President Kennedy's assassination, newly  
9 sworn-in President Lyndon B. Johnson first addressed the joint  
10 session of Congress on November 27, 1963, telling legislators  
11 "No memorial oration or eulogy could more eloquently honor  
12 President Kennedy's memory than the earliest possible passage of  
13 the civil rights bill for which he fought so long"; and

1 WHEREAS, The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law by  
2 President Johnson on July 2, 1964; and

3 WHEREAS, Upon the signing of the Civil Rights Act, President  
4 Johnson addressed the American public on July 2, 1964, stating  
5 that the newly passed act "does not restrict the freedom of any  
6 American, so long as he respects the rights of others. It does  
7 not give special treatment to any citizen...It does say that  
8 there are those who are equal before God shall now also be equal  
9 in the polling booths, in the classrooms, in the factories, and  
10 in hotels, restaurants, movie theaters, and other places that  
11 provide service to the public...This Civil Rights Act is a  
12 challenge to all of us to go to work in our communities and our  
13 States, in our homes and in our hearts, to eliminate the last  
14 vestiges of injustice in our beloved country"; and

15 WHEREAS, The Civil Rights Act of 1964 sets a benchmark  
16 standard for civil rights protection across each of the fifty  
17 United States. The act prohibits discrimination on the basis of  
18 race, color, religion, sex or national origin and brought an end  
19 to the tumultuous era of racial segregation. Its passage set the  
20 precedent that discrimination would no longer be codified and  
21 was further expanded in 1965 to encompass equal voting rights  
22 for all citizens; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
24 year of 2014 as the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Civil  
25 Rights Act of 1964 and that the citizens of this Commonwealth be  
26 encouraged to honor and celebrate this momentous piece of  
27 landmark legislation.