
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 143 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, FOLMER, EICHELBERGER, WOZNIAK, RAFFERTY,
COSTA AND TARTAGLIONE, JUNE 3, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 3, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 230th anniversary of Dauphin County.

2 WHEREAS, Dauphin County's early roots reach back to the 1700s
3 when John Harris, Sr., was granted 300 acres of land along the
4 Susquehanna River where he initiated the first ferry service
5 across the river, for which the location was dubbed "Harris
6 Ferry"; and

7 WHEREAS, After 1729, when Harris Ferry was placed under the
8 jurisdiction of the newly formed Lancaster County, John Harris'
9 descendants argued that traveling the long distance to Lancaster
10 for court or legal business created a hardship; and

11 WHEREAS, The Harris family made an appeal to the General
12 Assembly, requesting a new county be created between Harris
13 Ferry and Lancaster; and

14 WHEREAS, The General Assembly granted that request March 2,
15 1785, creating a new county and naming it Dauphin County in
16 honor of the prince of France, who had assisted the colonies in
17 the Revolutionary War; and

1 WHEREAS, John Harris' descendants donated lots on Walnut and
2 Market Streets for the new Dauphin County courthouse while
3 Harris' son-in-law, William Maclay, established the set up of
4 the town as originally laid out by Harris; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1791, the town was formally named "Harris Ferry";
6 and

7 WHEREAS, By order of the act of February 21, 1810, the
8 Pennsylvania State Capitol was relocated from Lancaster to
9 Harrisburg, and Dauphin County's first courthouse served as the
10 State's capitol from 1812 until 1822; and

11 WHEREAS, Since then Dauphin County has produced many great
12 leaders in a variety of endeavors, including the fields of
13 religion, agriculture, patriotism, education, science and art;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The year 2015 marks the 230th anniversary of Dauphin
16 County, which will be commemorated by a series of events
17 beginning in May and continuing through the summer, including
18 courthouse tours, creation of a heritage mural, a young artists'
19 alley and a quilt specifically crafted to honor the heritage of
20 African Americans in Dauphin County; and

21 WHEREAS, The courthouse tours will begin May 16, 2015, and
22 will be conducted by county dignitaries; and

23 WHEREAS, The young artists' alley will be incorporated into
24 the Cultural Fest on August 7, 2015, in Harrisburg, with the
25 theme "Home"; and

26 WHEREAS, In October 2015, the African-American Quilters
27 Gathering of Harrisburg will display a quilt created
28 specifically to memorialize and honor the contributions of the
29 United States Colored Troops and those involved in the
30 underground railroad; and

1 WHEREAS, The heritage mural will be constructed at the Twin
2 Valley Players Colonnade in Millersburg and will depict Dauphin
3 County's many historical sites, including the Lykens Valley
4 Railroad and the Millersburg Ferry; and

5 WHEREAS, Along with these activities, the Hershey Harrisburg
6 Regional Visitors Bureau has launched a new website with an
7 entire section dedicated to the arts, heritage and museums as
8 well as other attractions throughout Dauphin County; and

9 WHEREAS, Starting in May 2015, the visitors bureau will
10 promote the 230th anniversary of the establishment and heritage
11 of Dauphin County and feature a multitude of events celebrating
12 this occasion; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate commemorate the 230th anniversary
14 of Dauphin County; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
16 the Dauphin County Commissioners at the Dauphin County
17 Administration Building, 2 South Second Street, 4th Floor,
18 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108.