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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 739 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY MARSICO, HENNESSEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER, RYAN, TURZAI,  
READSHAW, MILLARD, KULIK, NEILSON, BURNS, HICKERNELL,  
PICKETT, BOBACK, DOWLING, BARBIN, STAATS, KAUFFMAN, SAINATO,  
SAYLOR, CALTAGIRONE, W. KELLER, MURT, WARD, DIGIROLAMO,  
MENTZER, HILL-EVANS, KAVULICH, WATSON AND SCHWEYER,  
MARCH 9, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 9, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the  
2 Diocese of Harrisburg.

3 WHEREAS, The Diocese of Harrisburg was originally part of the  
4 Archdiocese of Philadelphia until it was formally made its own  
5 Diocese in 1868 by Pope Pius IX; and

6 WHEREAS, Eighteen counties composed the Diocese of Harrisburg  
7 when it was established, but in 1901, three counties were  
8 reassigned; and

9 WHEREAS, The first church within the Diocese of Harrisburg  
10 was founded as Conewago Mission in 1730 in Adams County, the  
11 current site of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; and

12 WHEREAS, The early 1800s brought significant growth of the  
13 Catholic community in Harrisburg, with the arrival of large  
14 numbers of Irish Catholic immigrants; and

15 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth attracted immigrants from a wide

1 range of countries, who required priests to administer  
2 sacraments in their native language; and

3 WHEREAS, Today, there are 89 parishes, 7 missions and 246,495  
4 Catholics within the Diocese of Harrisburg; and

5 WHEREAS, The Diocese of Harrisburg influenced many facets of  
6 the history of central and southcentral Pennsylvania and  
7 established institutions of education, health care and  
8 orphanages; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg, there are five  
10 diocesan secondary schools, two kindergarten through 12th grade  
11 schools, thirty-two elementary schools and one Catholic  
12 hospital; and

13 WHEREAS, The Diocese of Harrisburg is commemorating its  
14 formation 150 years ago with a yearlong celebration under the  
15 theme, "For a Lasting Remembrance"; and

16 WHEREAS, The Diocese of Harrisburg held a sesquicentennial  
17 mass on March 3, 2018, the day of the founding of the Diocese in  
18 1868; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the  
20 150th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Harrisburg  
21 and extend congratulations for its 150 years of faith and  
22 service to this Commonwealth.