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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 26 Session of 2019

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INTRODUCED BY ISAACSON, YOUNGBLOOD, DONATUCCI, NEILSON, BIZZARRO, BROWN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CONKLIN, EVERETT, FREEMAN, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MENTZER, MILLARD, MURT, PASHINSKI, READSHAW, RYAN, SAMUELSON, SANCHEZ, SAPPEY, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHMITT, SONNEY, STAATS, TOEPEL, VITALI AND MARKOSEK, JANUARY 11, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JANUARY 11, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 17, 2019, as the birthday of Benjamin  
2 Franklin.

3 WHEREAS, Benjamin Franklin was born to humble means in 1706  
4 in Boston, Massachusetts, where he would assist his father's  
5 business and apprentice under his brother as a printer; and

6 WHEREAS, At 17 years of age, Franklin ran away to  
7 Philadelphia where, through an undying self-determination, he  
8 would quickly become the most prominent master printer in the  
9 American colonies, figuratively and literally representing the  
10 phrase "rags to riches"; and

11 WHEREAS, Driven by a sense of public duty and interest in  
12 improving the human condition, Franklin was instrumental in the  
13 improvement of the lighting and paving of Philadelphia and in  
14 the organization of a police force, fire companies, the  
15 Pennsylvania Hospital and the Library Company of Philadelphia,

1 as well as the institution that became the University of  
2 Pennsylvania; and

3 WHEREAS, Franklin's wide-ranging work as a philanthropist,  
4 public servant, scholar, scientist and inventor was legendary  
5 and helped to shape the modern world; and

6 WHEREAS, Franklin's most laudable accomplishments came in the  
7 latter portion of the 18th Century through his work in public  
8 service; and

9 WHEREAS, During his lifetime, Franklin would serve as Chief  
10 Clerk and Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly, Philadelphia  
11 postmaster, a member of the Continental Congress, delegate to  
12 the Constitutional Convention and ambassador to France; and

13 WHEREAS, Franklin is most memorable for his roles in signing  
14 the American Declaration of Independence, framing the  
15 Constitution of the United States and helping to draft the  
16 Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776; and

17 WHEREAS, After a long and exceptionally productive life in  
18 politics, science and publishing, Franklin died in 1790 in  
19 Philadelphia, where he was buried at the Christ Church Burial  
20 Ground; and

21 WHEREAS, A story from the Constitutional Convention of 1787  
22 tells of a woman asking Franklin what form of government the  
23 American colonies would take, to which he reportedly replied, "A  
24 Republic, if you can keep it"; and

25 WHEREAS, Our challenge as residents of this Commonwealth is  
26 to keep the Republic that Benjamin Franklin helped to establish;  
27 therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize January  
29 17, 2019, as the birthday of Benjamin Franklin; and be it  
30 further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives celebrate the  
2 life and accomplishments of this remarkable human being.