

ROSITA C. YOUNGBLOOD, MEMBER
300 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202198
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2198
PHONE: (717) 787-7727
FAX: (717) 772-1313

5736 GREENE STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19144
PHONE: (215) 849-6426
FAX: (215) 849-5476



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Rosita Youngblood

DATE: February 3, 2009

SUBJECT: Former HR 378 – Re-Introduction of Legislation – Resolution urging the Governor to study the naming of “Negro Mountain” and “Mount Davis”

In the near future, I will be re-introducing a resolution (**House Resolution 378 of 2007**) urging the Governor to form a commission or other method to study the conflict of 1756, which occurred on Negro Mountain. Once conclusions are made by the study, I urge the Governor to rename the mountain and/or Mount Davis, the highest point of the mountain, to reflect the heroism displayed by the African-American who laid down his life in the conflict.

Negro Mountain is approximately 30 miles long and is located in the center of the Allegheny Plateau. The territory was untouched by settlers for 150 years after establishment of the first colonies. However, the British and French developed political and economical interest in the region during the mid-1700s. A band of volunteers, led by the English-born pioneer Thomas Cresap, attempted to cross the mountain when a skirmish broke out with the Native Americans. Several versions of the story exist, but all agree that a large, powerful African-American valiantly distinguished himself in battle with them. Thereafter, the mountain, on which he died and was buried in an unmarked grave, became known as Negro Mountain.

In addition, the highest point of Negro Mountain, rising 3,213 feet, is the highest point in the state. Officially recognized in 1921, this peak received the designation of Mount Davis after John N. Davis, the settler who once owned the land.

My resolution urges the Governor to study the history of the conflict that broke out on Negro Mountain in 1756. Further, my resolution would urge the Governor to rename the mountain and/or Mount Davis to reflect the heroism displayed by the African-American on that historic day. Finally, my resolution would urge the Governor to ensure that all brochures, plaques and signs display historically accurate information.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this resolution, please contact Kelli Walk at 717.787.7727 or kwalk@pahouse.net.

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