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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 217 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, COHEN, MILLARD, PARKER, YOUNGBLOOD,  
PICKETT, D. COSTA, BIZZARRO, SONNEY, HENNESSEY, BROWNLEE,  
ROZZI, J. HARRIS, V. BROWN, KAVULICH, CALTAGIRONE,  
DIGIROLAMO, TOEPEL, STERN, CONKLIN, HARHAI, WHITE, MAHONEY,  
BARRAR, P. DALEY, PASHINSKI, FLECK, C. HARRIS, HESS, CLYMER,  
HAHN, GINGRICH, EVERETT, SWANGER, MAJOR, SCHLEGEL CULVER,  
MILNE, GOODMAN, WATSON, TOOHIL AND HEFFLEY, APRIL 8, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 8, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the legacy of Hannah Callowhill Penn, the first woman  
2 who governed Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Hannah Callowhill Penn was born in Bristol, England,  
4 on February 11, 1671; and

5 WHEREAS, On March 5, 1696, she married William Penn, founder  
6 of the province of Pennsylvania, and the couple arrived in  
7 Philadelphia on December 10, 1699; and

8 WHEREAS, William Penn and Hannah Callowhill Penn resided at  
9 Pennsbury Manor in Morrisville; and

10 WHEREAS, Both Hannah Callowhill Penn and William Penn made  
11 remarkable contributions to our Commonwealth and to the founding  
12 of our nation and were lifelong advocates of peace and justice;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, When William Penn became incapacitated by a stroke  
15 in 1712, Hannah Callowhill Penn effectively governed in his name

1 and handled all of his other complicated financial and legal  
2 affairs until his death in 1718; and

3 WHEREAS, After William Penn's death, Hannah Callowhill Penn  
4 continued to govern Pennsylvania from England for another eight  
5 years until her death in 1726; and

6 WHEREAS, Hannah Callowhill Penn played an instrumental role  
7 in the development of Pennsylvania and at the time of her  
8 governance, no other woman in Britain, except Queen Mary II and  
9 Queen Anne, held such direct political power; and

10 WHEREAS, For her historic contributions, Hannah Callowhill  
11 Penn was granted honorary United States citizenship in 1984 and  
12 honorary Pennsylvania citizenship in 1985; and

13 WHEREAS, Numerous events have been planned to honor the  
14 legacy of Hanna Callowhill Penn in the coming year; and

15 WHEREAS, March 12, 2013, was proclaimed "Hannah Callowhill  
16 Penn Day" in Pennsylvania by Governor Tom Corbett in her honor;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, "Hannah Callowhill Penn Day" marked the beginning of  
19 a yearlong project to recognize Hanna Callowhill Penn's  
20 achievements and contributions to our Commonwealth; and

21 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Commission for Women will present  
22 an annual Hannah Penn Leadership Award to inspire leadership  
23 among the women of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the legacy  
25 of Hannah Callowhill Penn, the first woman who governed  
26 Pennsylvania.