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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 687 Session of  
2008

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INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, BELFANTI, BEYER, BISHOP, BRENNAN,  
CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI,  
D. EVANS, FRANKEL, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GRUCELA, HARKINS,  
HERSHEY, JAMES, MAJOR, MANN, MANTZ, MARKOSEK, McCALL,  
McGEEHAN, MILLARD, MUSTIO, MYERS, OLIVER, PALLONE, PASHINSKI,  
PAYNE, PHILLIPS, RAMALEY, READSHAW, REICHLLEY, ROEBUCK, ROSS,  
SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, SWANGER, THOMAS,  
VULAKOVICH, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI, STURLA, J. WHITE, SANTONI,  
KULA, KORTZ AND COHEN, APRIL 2, 2008

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 2, 2008

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A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the African American Jazz  
2 Preservation Society of Pittsburgh Local No. 471 in honor of  
3 "Jazz Appreciation Month."

4 WHEREAS, The mission of the African American Jazz  
5 Preservation Society of Pittsburgh (AAJPSP) is to preserve,  
6 disseminate and promote the history, accomplishments and talents  
7 of the African-American jazz experience through programs and  
8 services that distinguish the African-American musical community  
9 as a valuable cultural, educational and social asset of the  
10 Pittsburgh region; and

11 WHEREAS, AAJPSP is an outgrowth of the realization that a  
12 great deal of the rich cultural contributions made in the field  
13 of jazz originated from musicians who were born and raised in  
14 Pittsburgh, particularly the Hill District; and

1       WHEREAS, There are many gaps in the gathering and  
2 dissemination of information relative to the history of jazz in  
3 Pittsburgh, more specifically, its founders, contributors and  
4 their subsequent social and artistic influence to the world  
5 which have significant ties to the Pittsburgh region; and

6       WHEREAS, AAJPSP began operations with the support of the  
7 National Conference for Community and Justice and the University  
8 of Pittsburgh School of Social Work in September 1996; and

9       WHEREAS, AAJPSP prioritized recapturing the lost legacy of  
10 the African American Musicians Union Local No. 471 through  
11 conducting oral history interviews and by obtaining historical  
12 documentation, photographs and artifacts; and

13       WHEREAS, Approximately 100 musicians have been interviewed,  
14 and artifacts dating back to the early 1900s, such as union  
15 membership cards and records, photographs and club bills, have  
16 been collected; and

17       WHEREAS, Most items are housed in the University of  
18 Pittsburgh, University Library System Archives Service Center;  
19 and

20       WHEREAS, In honor of the 100th anniversary, a special Jazz  
21 Weekend will take place on April 4 and 5, 2008, which will  
22 include a film screening and musical performance by several  
23 longtime members of Local No. 471 and students; therefore be it

24       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the  
25 100th anniversary of the founding of the African American Jazz  
26 Preservation Society of Pittsburgh Local No. 471, highlighting  
27 the artistry and contributions of the recognized and  
28 unrecognized African-American musicians who help make Pittsburgh  
29 the crossroads of the world in honor of "Jazz Appreciation  
30 Month."