

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 259 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO, DUSH, HENNESSEY, MACKENZIE, MILLARD, NEILSON, READSHAW, ROZZI, SONNEY, TOOHL, VITALI, WARD AND SANKEY, APRIL 18, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 18, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Jeannie Seely on her 50th anniversary of being a member  
2 of the Grand Ole Opry.

3 WHEREAS, Jeannie Seely was born in Titusville, Pennsylvania,  
4 grew up on a farm outside of Townville, Pennsylvania, and was a  
5 precocious talent who went from singing with her mother every  
6 Saturday morning while the two baked bread together to  
7 performing on local radio by 11 years of age and appearing on  
8 local television by 16 years of age; and

9 WHEREAS, When Ms. Seely was barely tall enough to reach the  
10 dial on her family's Philco console radio she was tuning in to  
11 the Grand Ole Opry on WSM 650 and as a teenager she would sit in  
12 her family's car eating popcorn and listening to the Grand Ole  
13 Opry while her parents played cards with friends; and

14 WHEREAS, When Ms. Seely was 16, she appeared on WICU, a  
15 television station in Erie, Pennsylvania; and

16 WHEREAS, After a stint in California Ms. Seely moved to  
17 Nashville, Tennessee, with only \$50 and a Ford Falcon to her

1 name, however, within a month, Porter Wagoner hired her as the  
2 female singer for his road and television series; and

3 WHEREAS, Though Ms. Seely was initially turned down by every  
4 record label in town, her big break came when a recording  
5 contract was offered by Monument Records; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Seely recorded her legendary song "Don't Touch  
7 Me" soon after signing her contract, and the song debuted on the  
8 country music charts where it stayed for more than five months;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Seely was honored with the 1966 Grammy Award for  
11 Best Country and Western Vocal Performance by a Female, edging  
12 out Loretta Lynn, Dottie West, Jan Howard and Connie Smith to  
13 become the third female country artist to receive the coveted  
14 award; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, "Don't Touch Me" is considered a standard in  
16 country music and Ms. Seely's recording of the song is ranked  
17 No. 97 in the book *Heartaches By the Number: Country Music's 500*  
18 *Greatest Singles* and included in the book *The Stories Behind*  
19 *Country Music's All-Time Greatest 100 Songs*; and

20 WHEREAS, Several notable artists across genres have gone on  
21 to record the song, including Tammy Wynette, George Jones and  
22 Etta James; and

23 WHEREAS, After the success of her debut single, Jeannie Seely  
24 began singing and touring with Jack Greene and the two would  
25 become one of the most successful duos and road shows in country  
26 music history, doing much to promote country music to wider  
27 audiences around the world; and

28 WHEREAS, On September 16, 1967, Jeannie Seely saw her  
29 childhood dream come true when she became a member of the Grand  
30 Ole Opry; the first Pennsylvania native to be invited to become

1 a member, she was also the first female to regularly host Opry  
2 segments; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Seely has penned songs for other artists over  
4 the years, including Merle Haggard, Ray Price, Ernest Tubb and  
5 Lorrie Morgan; and

6 WHEREAS, Rhythm and blues artist Irma Thomas scored a  
7 national pop hit with Jeannie Seely's song "Anyone Who Knows  
8 What Love Is"; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition to Ms. Seely's success in the music  
10 industry, she is quite an accomplished actress, appearing in  
11 several major stage productions, including Always, Patsy Cline  
12 and The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Seely also appeared in Willie Nelson's movie  
14 "Honeysuckle Rose" and performed on the film's platinum-selling  
15 soundtrack; and

16 WHEREAS, On January 13, 2017, Ms. Seely released her 16th  
17 album, Written in Song, which featured 14 songs that were either  
18 written or cowritten by the artist; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor Jeannie  
20 Seely on her 50th anniversary of being a member of the Grand Ole  
21 Opry.