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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 470 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY DOWLING, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, CUTLER, CHARLTON, MACKENZIE, BAKER, DAY, WARD, NEILSON, SACCONI, DIGIROLAMO, ROTHMAN, BIZZARRO, RYAN, MEHAFFIE, PICKETT, SCHLEGEL CULVER, BOBACK, SAYLOR, MARSHALL, DUSH, SONNEY, HAHN, CORBIN, DAVIS, KINSEY, MUSTIO, WALSH, METZGAR, ORTITAY, SANKEY, M. K. KELLER, MILLARD, WENTLING, NESBIT, D. COSTA, PASHINSKI, MENTZER, ZIMMERMAN, DRISCOLL, FEE, TOPPER, REESE, BARRAR, NELSON, MARSICO, LONGIETTI, COOK, ELLIS, STAATS, BERNSTINE AND MAHER, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 11 through 17, 2017, as "Boy  
2 Scout and Cub Scout Sign-Up Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) provides the  
4 nation's foremost youth program of character development and  
5 value-based leadership training in approximately 280 local  
6 councils; and

7 WHEREAS, Originating in England under the guidance of Lord  
8 Robert Baden-Powell, Boy Scouts grew from Lord Baden-Powell's  
9 desire to convert his military prowess into a nonmilitary nature  
10 skills development opportunity for boys; and

11 WHEREAS, Newspaper publisher William D. Boyce lost his way in  
12 a London fog and was aided by one of Lord Baden-Powell's young  
13 scouts, becoming so impressed by the young fellow's skill and  
14 cordiality that he founded the Boy Scouts of America on February

1 8, 1910, so that American boys could likewise develop survival  
2 skills; and

3 WHEREAS, President William Howard Taft became the first  
4 honorary president of the BSA and Theodore Roosevelt was the  
5 organization's first honorary vice president; and

6 WHEREAS, For more than a century, boy scouting has been an  
7 ongoing adventure that teaches a powerful set of real-life  
8 skills and develops fundamental qualities that help young people  
9 become "Prepared. For Life."; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, the organization is composed of nearly 2.5  
11 million youth members between 6 and 20 years of age and has  
12 approximately 960,000 volunteers in local councils throughout  
13 the United States and its territories; and

14 WHEREAS, The BSA is a multilevel organization with  
15 approximately 1.3 million Cub Scouts 6 to 10 years of age and  
16 approximately 885,000 Boy Scouts 11 to 17 years of age; and

17 WHEREAS, Venturing and Exploring are additional BSA programs  
18 that provide individuals under 21 years of age with adventure  
19 and career experiences to further shape them into responsible  
20 and caring adults; and

21 WHEREAS, The BSA offers rank advancement and merit badge  
22 awards to foster athleticism, nature and survival skills, and  
23 citizenship development as a means of encouraging maturity,  
24 capability and self-confidence; and

25 WHEREAS, The highest attainable rank in the BSA is Eagle  
26 Scout; and

27 WHEREAS, Scouts must demonstrate proficiency in leadership,  
28 service and outdoor skills at multiple levels before achieving  
29 Eagle Scout rank; and

30 WHEREAS, In addition to the 21 life skills merit badges

1 required to earn Eagle Scout rank, each scout must complete an  
2 extensive service project that he plans, organizes, leads and  
3 manages before his 18th birthday; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2014, Eagle Scout projects provided more than  
5 \$183 million in service to communities across the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, Collectively, scouts across America recorded more  
7 than 14 million hours of service to their communities in 2014,  
8 at a value of more than \$323 million; and

9 WHEREAS, Since joining the Messengers of Peace program in  
10 2013, the BSA has joined scouts worldwide to contribute more  
11 than 600 million hours of community service; and

12 WHEREAS, The mission of the BSA is to prepare young people to  
13 make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling  
14 the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law; and

15 WHEREAS, The Scout Oath states that, "On my honor I will do  
16 my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the  
17 Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself  
18 physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight"; and

19 WHEREAS, Scout Law requires that a scout is "trustworthy,  
20 loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful,  
21 thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent"; and

22 WHEREAS, Many great citizens of our nation and Commonwealth  
23 have been Boy Scouts, and 4% of them went on to receive the  
24 Eagle Scout award; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
26 week of September 11 through 17, 2017, as "Boy Scout and Cub  
27 Scout Sign-Up Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
29 important role the Boy Scouts of America plays in our nation and  
30 in this Commonwealth.