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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 794 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY QUIGLEY, BARRAR, BOBACK, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLEGEL  
CULVER, DIGIROLAMO, GROVE, HENNESSEY, JAMES, KAVULICH,  
LONGIETTI, METZGAR, MURT, NEILSON, READSHAW, RYAN, TOOHL,  
WARD, YOUNGBLOOD AND SAYLOR, APRIL 4, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 4, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 120th anniversary of the Battle of Manila Bay.

2 WHEREAS, The Battle of Manila Bay took place on May 1, 1898,  
3 in the Philippines; and

4 WHEREAS, At the Battle of Manila Bay, the United States  
5 Asiatic Squadron destroyed the Spanish Pacific fleet in the  
6 first major battle of the Spanish-American War; and

7 WHEREAS, Commodore George Dewey, who was in command of the  
8 United States Asiatic Squadron anchored north of Hong Kong, was  
9 ordered to capture and destroy the Spanish Pacific fleet; and

10 WHEREAS, On April 30, 1898, Commodore Dewey's lookouts caught  
11 sight of Luzon, the main Philippine island, and under the cover  
12 of darkness, the United States Asiatic Squadron slipped by the  
13 defensive guns of Corregidor Island and into Manila Bay; and

14 WHEREAS, After dawn, the United State Asiatic Squadron  
15 located the Spanish Pacific fleet, which was out of date in  
16 comparison to the well-armed and well-staffed American ships;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, At approximately 5:40 a.m. on the morning of May 1,  
3 1898, Commodore Dewey gave the order to begin fire, and two  
4 hours later the Spanish Pacific fleet was decimated and  
5 Commodore Dewey ordered a pause in the fighting; and

6 WHEREAS, The surviving Spanish vessel, trapped in the little  
7 harbor at Cavite, refused to surrender, and fighting resumed  
8 later that morning; and

9 WHEREAS, By early afternoon, the Spanish surrendered; and

10 WHEREAS, Spanish losses were estimated at more than 370  
11 troops, while the American casualties were fewer than 10;  
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
14 120th anniversary of the Battle of Manila Bay.