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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 835 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY BOROWICZ, MARCH 23, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 23, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 30, 2020, as "A State Day of Humiliation,  
2 Fasting and Prayer" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On March 30, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln  
4 proclaimed April 30, 1863, as a National Day of Humiliation,  
5 Fasting and Prayer; and

6 WHEREAS, Since March 11, 2020, the United States has been in  
7 a time of crisis; and

8 WHEREAS, During the pandemic of 2020 and the ensuing  
9 uncertainty and anxiety of this time, Pennsylvanians may be  
10 comforted by turning to a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer  
11 as well as the wise words of our great President Abraham  
12 Lincoln; and

13 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives devoutly recognizes the  
14 Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God in all the  
15 affairs of men and of nations; and

16 WHEREAS, It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own  
17 their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess  
18 their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow; and

1       WHEREAS, With assured hope that genuine repentance will lead  
2 to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth,  
3 announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history: that  
4 those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord; and

5       WHEREAS, Insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations  
6 like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisement  
7 in this world; and

8       WHEREAS, May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of  
9 the pandemic, which now desolates this Commonwealth may be but a  
10 punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins to the  
11 needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?; and

12       WHEREAS, We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties  
13 of Heaven and we have been preserved these many years in peace  
14 and prosperity; and

15       WHEREAS, We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no  
16 other nation has ever grown; and

17       WHEREAS, But we have forgotten God and we have forgotten the  
18 gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and  
19 enriched and strengthened us; and

20       WHEREAS, We have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our  
21 hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior  
22 wisdom and virtue of our own; and

23       WHEREAS, Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become  
24 too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and  
25 preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!;  
26 and

27       WHEREAS, It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the  
28 offended Power, to confess our national sins and to pray for  
29 clemency and forgiveness; therefore be it

30       RESOLVED, That House of Representatives designate March 30,

1 2020, as "A State Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer" in  
2 Pennsylvania; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request that all  
4 Pennsylvanians abstain on that day from their ordinary secular  
5 pursuits, and to unite, at their respective homes, in keeping  
6 the day holy to the Lord and devoted to the humble discharge of  
7 the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion; and be it  
8 further

9       RESOLVED, That we then rest humbly in the hope authorized by  
10 the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the nation will be  
11 heard on high and answered with blessing no less than the pardon  
12 of our national sins and the restoration of our now divided and  
13 suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and  
14 peace.