

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 89 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY YOUNGBLOOD, DONATUCCI, COHEN, CLAY, CALTAGIRONE, PAINTER, THOMAS, MAHONEY, MILLARD, GROVE, V. BROWN, KORTZ, READSHAW, QUINN, MURT, BROWNLEE, KINSEY, SIMS, DAY, MCGEEHAN, SANTARSIERO, CRUZ, D. COSTA, WATSON, FABRIZIO AND STURLA, MARCH 11, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 11, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to create a commission, or take other  
 2 executive action, to rename Negro Mountain in Somerset County  
 3 to accurately reflect the history of the region and to update  
 4 related governmental maps, brochures, plaques and signs.

5 WEREAS, Negro Mountain is an approximately 30-mile long ridge  
 6 of the Allegheny Mountains that spans from Maryland north into  
 7 the Casselman River in Somerset County, Pennsylvania; and

8 WHEREAS, The highest point of Negro Mountain, rising 3,213  
 9 feet, is the highest point in Pennsylvania; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1756 during the French and Indian War, a battle  
 11 on Negro Mountain ensued between a band of volunteers led by the  
 12 English-born pioneer Thomas Cresap and Native Americans on the  
 13 mountain; and

14 WHEREAS, Historical reports of the account, including reports  
 15 written by Cresap himself, note that while crossing the  
 16 mountain, a party of Native Americans fired upon the volunteers  
 17 and mortally wounded one of the "Negroes." A piece of a hollow

1 log was found and placed over the "Negro" to shelter him, and,  
2 throwing it off, he said, "Save yourselves and never mind me; I  
3 shall die soon"; and

4 WHEREAS, Cresap wrote an account of the expedition for  
5 Benjamin Franklin's "Pennsylvania Gazette" of June 17, 1756; and

6 WHEREAS, It is said that Negro Mountain took its name from  
7 this battle, notably from the heroism of the "Negro" who gave  
8 his life to protect the other volunteers; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1882, J. Thomas Scharf stated in "History of  
10 Western Maryland" that the wounded man's name was Nemesis and  
11 that he was Cresap's servant; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1921, the highest point of Negro Mountain was  
13 officially recognized as Mount Davis, after John N. Davis, the  
14 settler who once owned the land; and

15 WHEREAS, No official geological document or map accurately  
16 displays the name of the "Negro," Nemesis, who bravely gave his  
17 life to save others; and

18 WHEREAS, The official Pennsylvania transportation and tourism  
19 map distributed by the Department of Transportation does not  
20 even have a reference to Negro Mountain, but does reference  
21 Mount Davis; and

22 WHEREAS, The lack of documentation of Negro Mountain on the  
23 official Commonwealth's transportation and tourism map  
24 highlights the need to change the name of Negro Mountain to  
25 something more appropriate for display and print on official  
26 documents; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the Governor, in consultation with the  
28 Pennsylvania State Archives, the Department of Conservation and  
29 Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation, create a  
30 commission, or take other executive action, to rename Negro

1 Mountain in Somerset County to accurately reflect the history of  
2 the region and the heroism displayed by the African American  
3 known as Nemesis in the Negro Mountain conflict of 1756; and be  
4 it further

5       RESOLVED, That, on or before December 31, 2014, the  
6 commission or the Governor notify the General Assembly, the  
7 Pennsylvania State Archives, the Department of Conservation and  
8 Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation of the  
9 new name that was selected for Negro Mountain; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That all related governmental maps, brochures,  
11 plaques and signs bear the new name chosen by the Governor that  
12 accurately reflects the facts of this heroic historical event.