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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 790 Session of  
2004

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INTRODUCED BY MYERS, RUBLEY, FORCIER, MANN, CAPPELLI, SAINATO,  
CRUZ, PALLONE, HORSEY, GRUCELA, BELARDI, HERSHEY, MCGILL,  
ROSS, WATSON, D. EVANS, ROBERTS, FABRIZIO, SCAVELLO, HERMAN,  
GINGRICH, DENLINGER, LAUGHLIN, CURRY, ROEBUCK, BEBKO-JONES,  
TANGRETTI, JAMES, TIGUE, HICKERNELL, JOSEPHS, LEWIS, FREEMAN,  
YOUNGBLOOD, THOMAS, HARHAI, MANDERINO, KIRKLAND, PETRARCA,  
DALEY, COSTA, GOODMAN, WHEATLEY, WASHINGTON, WALKO, GEIST,  
BUNT, PISTELLA, LEDERER AND CIVERA, JUNE 15, 2004

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 15, 2004

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the third Saturday of June 2004 as "Juneteenth  
2 National Freedom Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Originating in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865,  
4 when slaves in that state learned that they had been freed,  
5 "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" is the oldest African-American  
6 holiday observance in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" commemorates the  
8 survival instinct of Africans who endured a transatlantic  
9 journey known as the Middle Passage on slave ships from their  
10 homeland to this country; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately 11.5 million Africans survived the  
12 harsh voyage to slave markets in the New World during the late  
13 17th century, and the slave population in the American colonies  
14 grew quickly; and

1       WHEREAS, "Juneteenth National Freedom Day," further  
2 commemorates the impact of slavery, the abolition movement and  
3 African-American emancipation in the United States and has  
4 become a traditional celebration of independence, human rights  
5 and African-American culture in many communities; therefore be  
6 it

7       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
8 third Saturday of June 2004 as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day"  
9 in Pennsylvania.