
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1176 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY DAVIDSON, THOMAS, NEILSON, MILLARD, READSHAW,
SOLOMON, KINSEY, KRUEGER-BRANEKY, DIGIROLAMO, YOUNGBLOOD,
MURT, HILL-EVANS, DAVIS, HENNESSEY, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLOSSBERG,
PETRARCA, SCHWEYER AND FITZGERALD, OCTOBER 16, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 16, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the life of Lucretia Mott, a 19th century feminist
2 activist, abolitionist, social reformer and pacifist who
3 helped launch the Women's Rights Movement, including fighting
4 for the right to vote, and designating November 6, 2018, as
5 "Lucretia Mott Day" in Pennsylvania.

6 WHEREAS, Lucretia Mott was born as Lucretia Coffin on January
7 3, 1793, in Nantucket, Massachusetts; and

8 WHEREAS, Consistent with her father's wishes that she become
9 familiar with democratic principles, Lucretia attended public
10 school for two years in Boston, Massachusetts; and

11 WHEREAS, At 13 years of age, Lucretia was sent to a Quaker
12 Friends boarding school near Poughkeepsie, New York, where two
13 years later, she became an assistant and a teacher; and

14 WHEREAS, At the boarding school, Lucretia's interest in
15 women's rights began with the realization that she was paid only
16 half the salary that male teachers were receiving; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1811, Lucretia Coffin married James Mott, a
18 fellow teacher from the boarding school, and the couple moved to

1 Philadelphia; and

2 WHEREAS, Approximately seven years later, Lucretia Mott began
3 to speak at religious meetings and three years later she was
4 accepted as a minister in the Society of Friends; and

5 WHEREAS, In the 1820s, Lucretia Mott began to travel around
6 the nation lecturing on religion and social reform, including
7 temperance, the abolition of slavery and peace; and

8 WHEREAS, Lucretia Mott was a highly effective speaker who
9 retained her poise before the most hostile audiences; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1840, Lucretia Mott was refused as a delegate to
11 the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London because of her
12 gender; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1848, Lucretia Mott and a fellow activist called
14 a first of its kind Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls,
15 New York, "to discuss the social, civil, and religious rights of
16 women," as they sought to take up the cause of women's rights;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The convention issued a Declaration of Sentiments
19 that was modeled on the Declaration of Independence, which
20 stated that "all men and women are created equal"; and

21 WHEREAS, From that time on, Lucretia Mott devoted most of her
22 attention to the women's rights movement, including writing
23 articles and lecturing widely; and

24 WHEREAS, Lucretia Mott was elected president of the 1852
25 convention at Syracuse, New York, and became president of the
26 American Equal Rights Association in 1866; and

27 WHEREAS, Lucretia Mott continued to be active in the causes
28 of women's rights, peace and liberal religion until her death on
29 November 11, 1880, when, at 87 years of age, she died at her
30 home in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania; and

1 WHEREAS, Although she did not live to see the day women won
2 the right to vote with the enactment of the 19th Amendment to
3 the Constitution of the United States, Lucretia Mott is credited
4 with having sparked the Women's Rights Movement; and

5 WHEREAS, Lucretia Mott stands as one of the most impactful
6 reformers of her day, tirelessly pushing for equal voting,
7 education and economic rights for all who were disadvantaged and
8 disenfranchised; and

9 WHEREAS, American author Susan Jacoby wrote: "When Mott died
10 in 1880, she was widely judged by her contemporaries...as the
11 greatest American woman of the nineteenth century";
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
14 life of Lucretia Mott and recognize her extraordinary dedication
15 and courage in fighting for the causes of women's rights,
16 including women's suffrage, the abolition of slavery and other
17 social reforms in this nation; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
19 November 6, 2018, which is General Election Day in this
20 Commonwealth for the year 2018, as "Lucretia Mott Day" in
21 Pennsylvania.