
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 853 Session of
2006

INTRODUCED BY GERGELY, DERMODY, COSTA, PISTELLA, PRESTON,
READSHAW, RAMALEY, FLAHERTY, WALKO, FRANKEL, PETRONE, KOTIK,
WHEATLEY, MARKOSEK, LEVDANSKY, DeLUCA, LESCOVITZ, MAHER,
MUSTIO, T. STEVENSON, DIVEN AND TURZAI, SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 23 through 30, 2006, as "Porky Chedwick
2 Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Born February 4, 1918, George Jacob Chedwick, Craig
4 "Porky" Chedwick, as he was later known, was the second of ten
5 children. A graduate of Munhall High School, Porky Chedwick was
6 a well-known public address announcer at local sporting events
7 and a sports stringer for the Homestead newspaper when he began
8 broadcasting August 1, 1948, on WHOD AM 860, the Station of
9 Nations, in Homestead, Pennsylvania; and

10 WHEREAS, His five-minute sports commentary program quickly
11 expanded to a 20-minute program aired on Saturdays as a
12 combination of sports and music. Porky played 78s from his own
13 collection, becoming the first white DJ, the blonde wonder with
14 the record thunder, on the East Coast to present a program of
15 R&B, gospel and jazz by black artists exclusively. The records,
16 many of them several years old, were not popular sales and so

1 were often given to Porky, who had to clean off the dusty discs
2 before he could play them on the air. That 20-minute program
3 soon became a five-hour, seven-days-a-week program. The
4 Masterful Rhythm, Blues and Jazz Show was a hit in the City of
5 Pittsburgh; and

6 WHEREAS, While playing a song with a saxophone solo, Porky
7 interrupted the broadcast to say, "Blow your horn," a request
8 that was quickly met with car horns blasting throughout the
9 city. His comments during another song that "This is on fire,"
10 resulted in hundreds of calls to the Homestead Fire Station
11 reporting that Porky's station was burning. When he ordered
12 Pittsburgh teens to stop and dance, the tunnels, parkways and
13 bridges in Pittsburgh became parking lots when listeners stopped
14 what they were doing, got out of their vehicles and danced; and

15 WHEREAS, As his popularity grew, other record companies, not
16 just black interests, went to Porky seeking his support and
17 requesting that he play their artists. One well-known manager,
18 Colonel Tom Parker, was turned away because Porky thought the
19 artist he represented, Elvis Presley, was "too country"; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1956, WHOD became WAMO. Porky's popularity was so
21 big at the time that during a remote broadcast in 1961, the
22 mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, Joseph M. Barr, had to come to
23 the site and request an early end to the broadcast because of
24 the 10,000 teens that were in attendance and the other 50,000
25 that were taking up all of the seats in transit. The mayor
26 feared gridlock, but Porky's quick acquiescence to the request
27 averted disaster; and

28 WHEREAS, Porky advocated an openly vigorous Christian
29 lifestyle and promoted the same for others. He believed that
30 lives should be led free of alcohol, drugs and tobacco. He

1 crusaded against juvenile delinquency, often taking kids into
2 custody to keep them out of trouble and sponsored numerous youth
3 baseball leagues; and

4 WHEREAS, Porky's on-air recordings and biographies have been
5 preserved for posterity in Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of
6 Fame among other radio icons. He is the only Pittsburgher so
7 honored; and

8 WHEREAS, Since the late 1940s, Porky has hosted more than
9 7,000 sock hops in the Pittsburgh area. He still likes to say
10 that he has seen more hops than the Easter Bunny; and

11 WHEREAS, His call, "Porky's Golden Ear, Breaking Hits From
12 Year to Year," was as well known as the many names he coined
13 over his years in broadcasting: Pork the Tork; Daddi-O of the
14 Raddi-O; The Bossman; The Founder and Creator of the Oldies;
15 Pied Piper of Platter; Blonde Wonder; Record Thunder; and
16 Platter Pushin' Papa. His most important name, though, "Porky,"
17 came from his mother; and

18 WHEREAS, Porky and his wife, Jeanie, still live in Brookline,
19 a neighborhood in the City of Pittsburgh. His son, Paul, lives
20 in Mt. Washington in the City of Pittsburgh and his son,
21 Michael, lives in Atlanta, Georgia; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
23 September 23 through 30, 2006, as "Porky Chedwick Week" in
24 Pennsylvania; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
26 Craig "Porky" Chedwick.