

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 131 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY CURRY, BAKER, BEYER, BISHOP, BOYD, CLYMER, DALEY, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EACHUS, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, KILLION, MAJOR, MANN, MANTZ, MOYER, NAILOR, RAPP, ROHRER, SAYLOR, SONNEY, STURLA, VULAKOVICH, WILLIAMS, MILLARD, MUNDY, M. O'BRIEN, READSHAW, SAINATO, SCAVELLO, STERN, TRUE, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI, R. MILLER, MUSTIO, PALLONE, REICHLEY, SANTONI, McILVAINE SMITH, R. STEVENSON, VEREB, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD, ARGALL, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, BIANCUCCI, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, COX, CREIGHTON, DALLY, DeLUCA, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GILLESPIE, GRELL, HARHAI, HERSHEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HUTCHINSON, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, KULA, LEACH, MANDERINO, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McGEEHAN, McILHATTAN, MENSCH, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PERRY, PETRARCA, PETRONE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PRESTON, QUIGLEY, RAMALEY, REED, RUBLEY, SAMUELSON, SCHRODER, SIPTROTH, M. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, J. WHITE AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 19, 2007

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 19, 2007

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 15 through 21, 2007, as "National
2 Library Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, America's public, academic, school and specialized
4 libraries help people change the world; and

5 WHEREAS, Our nation's libraries play an integral role as
6 community, educational and cultural centers that bring together
7 diverse populations and serve as important cornerstones in
8 healthy communities; and

9 WHEREAS, Two-thirds of adult Americans, approximately 135
10 million people, visit their local public libraries annually; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2005, the National Center for Education
2 Statistics published a report revealing that total visits to
3 public libraries nationwide approached 1.3 billion, or 4.6
4 visits per capita, in the 2003-2004 fiscal year; and

5 WHEREAS, Libraries are a cost-effective means of providing
6 education, training and the opportunity for self-improvement to
7 all individuals without regard to age, race, income or
8 socioeconomic background; and

9 WHEREAS, Libraries play a unique role in ensuring the
10 public's right to know and empowering people from all walks of
11 life to make informed decisions about the world around them; and

12 WHEREAS, A 2006 American Library Association survey found
13 that 85% of respondents believe libraries and librarians play an
14 essential role in our democracy and are needed now more than
15 ever; and

16 WHEREAS, Libraries are a key player in the national discourse
17 on intellectual freedom, equity of access and narrowing the
18 digital divide; and

19 WHEREAS, Libraries are a vital connection to the people,
20 places and ideas of the world through books, magazines, videos
21 and the Internet; and

22 WHEREAS, Currently 98.9% of public libraries provide free
23 Internet access, making them the preeminent source of Internet
24 access for people without computers at home, school or work; and

25 WHEREAS, Libraries are dynamic places with a variety of
26 activities that provide free, safe and enriching entertainment
27 for the whole family; and

28 WHEREAS, Public awareness and support for libraries,
29 librarians and library workers may be increased by raising their
30 visibility in a positive context and by communicating clearly

1 and strongly why libraries are and will remain a unique and
2 valuable tool for Americans now and in the future; and

3 WHEREAS, Thousands of libraries and library supporters across
4 the nation are celebrating "National Library Week" this year;
5 therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
7 week of April 15 through 21, 2007, as "National Library Week" in
8 Pennsylvania and encourage all residents of this Commonwealth to
9 explore the wide variety of cultural and educational riches that
10 libraries hold.