

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 69 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, BROWN, ADOLPH, BEAR, BELFANTI, BEYER, BISHOP, BOBACK, BOYD, BOYLE, BRENNAN, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, P. COSTA, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DELOZIER, DePASQUALE, DeWEESE, DONATUCCI, D. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HELM, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARKOSEK, McCALL, McGEEHAN, MELIO, MILLARD, MUNDY, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYTON, PETRI, PRESTON, PYLE, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, ROHRER, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, STURLA, SWANGER, R. TAYLOR, WALKO, WATERS, WATSON, WHITE AND YOUNGBLOOD, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 10, 2009

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of February 2009 as "Black History Month"  
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Carter G. Woodson, noted black scholar and  
4 historian, founded "Black History Week," the second week in  
5 February, on February 12, 1926; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial,  
7 "Black History Week" was expanded and established as "Black  
8 History Month" with the hope that through this special  
9 observance all Americans would be reminded of their ethnic roots  
10 and develop a mutual respect for the contributions of all racial  
11 groups in America; and

12 WHEREAS, The month of February is significant and recognized

1 in African-American history for the birthdays of great African-  
2 American pioneers and institutions, such as Frederick Douglass,  
3 W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Eubie Blake, the NAACP and the  
4 first Pan-African Congress; and

5 WHEREAS, African-Americans have endured tremendous personal,  
6 social, economic and political injustices since the dawn of  
7 their enslavement; and

8 WHEREAS, Increasing intercultural exchange and understanding  
9 will lead to the healing of all races; and

10 WHEREAS, We owe a great deal of gratitude to those persons  
11 who have pioneered the way toward social equality; and

12 WHEREAS, One such trailblazer was Shirley Chisholm, the first  
13 African-American Congresswoman, elected in 1968; and

14 WHEREAS, February 2009 will mark the observance of the first  
15 "Black History Month" under an African-American President, the  
16 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama; and

17 WHEREAS, "Black History Month" draws our collective attention  
18 to the experience of African-Americans in this country, from the  
19 beauty and strength of a people suffering an unjust sentence of  
20 slavery, to the gains during the abolitionist movement,  
21 including the 14th Amendment, to a backlash of the oppressive  
22 laws of "Jim Crow" which legalized the institutional separation  
23 of the races, to the celebration of life and the arts through  
24 the Harlem Renaissance, to the numerous and significant gains of  
25 freedom by the civil rights movement and agents of change like  
26 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers and Malcolm  
27 X; and

28 WHEREAS, For the immeasurable struggle of the leaders,  
29 victims and silent heroes who have fought to end discrimination,  
30 hatred, bigotry and segregation, we are all in debt; therefore

1 be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
3 month of February 2009 as "Black History Month" in Pennsylvania;  
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and  
6 appreciate the many benefits of "Black History Month" to our  
7 citizenry and to our culture in general and urge all  
8 Pennsylvanians to take the opportunity during this month to  
9 explore this rich history and bring this nation closer to  
10 realizing racial equity.