

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 337 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY BEYER, MANN, BEAR, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DePASQUALE, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, FLECK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GRUCELA, HARHART, HARKINS, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, KILLION, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KULA, MAHONEY, MAJOR, McCALL, MELIO, MILLARD, MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, QUINN, RAPP, REICHLEY, ROSS, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, SWANGER, VEREB, WHITE AND YOUNGBLOOD, SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

## A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating best-selling author and award-winning journalist  
2 John Grogan for his recognition by the Allentown Arts  
3 Commission as a Special Award Recipient at its 21st annual  
4 Arts Ovation Awards luncheon on May 7, 2009.

5 WHEREAS, The Arts Ovation Committee of the Allentown Arts  
6 Commission annually recognizes excellence in creative arts and  
7 service to the arts by presenting awards to local artists, arts  
8 organizations and corporations and individuals who have had a  
9 major impact on the arts culture of the Allentown area; and

10 WHEREAS, This year's awards will be presented at a luncheon  
11 on May 7 to the Lehigh Valley Black African Heritage History  
12 Project, Ian S. Holmes II, Zeke Zelker, Paul Willistein, Matt  
13 Halm, Debora Roberson and Eric Butz; and

14 WHEREAS, A Special Award will be presented to best-selling  
15 author and award-winning journalist John Grogan of Coopersburg;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Grogan, who with his wife, young children and  
3 yellow Labrador Retriever, Marley, moved to Pennsylvania in the  
4 1990s, chronicled the molding of his family in the widely read,  
5 highly acclaimed, hysterically funny and ultimately very  
6 touching book *Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's*  
7 *Worst Dog*; and

8 WHEREAS, The book, which showcases Mr. Grogan's outstanding  
9 skills as a journalist and storyteller, topped *The New York*  
10 *Times* bestsellers list for more than six months in 2005-2006  
11 and, though slightly revised for film purposes, was made into  
12 *Marley and Me*, a major movie that was released in December 2008  
13 starring Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston and 22 Labrador  
14 Retrievers depicting Marley from puppyhood to old age; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Grogan begins to describe his family's great  
16 affection for their adopted Pennsylvania in Chapter 22, entitled  
17 "In the Land of Pencils," with these words:

18 We settled into a rambling house on two acres  
19 perched on the side of a steep hill. Or perhaps  
20 it was a small mountain; the locals seemed to  
21 disagree on this point. Our property had a meadow  
22 where we could pick wild raspberries, a woods  
23 where I could chop logs to my heart's content,  
24 and a small, spring-fed creek where the kids and  
25 Marley soon found they could get exceptionally  
26 muddy. There was a fireplace and endless garden  
27 possibilities and a white-steepled church on the  
28 next hill, visible from our kitchen window when  
29 the leaves dropped in the fall...

30 There was only one thing missing from our new

1       bucolic existence. Minutes after we pulled into  
2       the driveway of our new house, Conor looked up at  
3       me, big tears rolling out of his eyes, and  
4       declared: "I thought there were going to be  
5       pencils in Pencilvania"...Given the name of the  
6       state we were adopting, both [boys] arrived fully  
7       expecting to see bright yellow writing implements  
8       hanging like berries from every tree and shrub,  
9       there for the plucking;

10    and

11       WHEREAS, Mr. Grogan has also authored a memoir of his parents  
12    entitled *The Longest Trip Home*; has been a columnist for the  
13    *Philadelphia Inquirer*; has worked as a reporter, bureau chief  
14    and columnist for newspapers in Michigan and Florida; is former  
15    editor-in-chief of Rodale's *Organic Gardening* magazine; and has  
16    won numerous awards, including the National Press Club's  
17    Consumer Journalism Award; and

18       WHEREAS, With open arms and great pride, the Commonwealth of  
19    Pennsylvania has welcomed John Grogan and his family to their  
20    adopted State; therefore be it

21       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives congratulate  
22    best-selling author and award-winning journalist John Grogan for  
23    his recognition by the Allentown Arts Commission as a Special  
24    Award Recipient at its 21st annual Arts Ovation Awards luncheon  
25    on May 7, 2009.