

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 409 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY BISHOP, WATERS, BUXTON, GEIST, HARKINS, HENNESSEY,  
KIRKLAND, PAYTON, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH AND YOUNGBLOOD,  
JULY 15, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JULY 15, 2009

## A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the contributions of Michael Jackson to music,  
2 performance, culture and charity and extending condolences to  
3 his family.

4 WHEREAS, Singer, songwriter Michael Joseph Jackson was born  
5 on August 29, 1958, in Gary, Indiana, to an African-American  
6 working class family; and

7 WHEREAS, His father, Joseph Jackson, was an aspiring musician  
8 who put aside his ambitions to provide for his family as a crane  
9 operator, but who saw musical talent in his children; and

10 WHEREAS, Michael Jackson first performed at the famed Apollo  
11 Theater with his brothers before he was ten years of age,  
12 winning Amateur Night in August 1967; and

13 WHEREAS, The Jackson 5 was the opening act for such Rhythm  
14 and Blues artists as Gladys Knight and the Pips, James Brown and  
15 Sam and Dave, on the Motown label, and Gladys Knight brought  
16 them to Benny Gordy's attention at Motown Records; and

17 WHEREAS, He was the lead singer of The Jackson 5 from the  
18 tender age of five, recording hits for Motown Records, such as

1 "ABC" and "I Want You Back" by the time he was 11; and  
2 WHEREAS, In 1969, the Jackson family relocated to Los  
3 Angeles; and  
4 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson released his first solo album in 1972,  
5 before his 15th birthday, titled *Got To Be There*, which included  
6 the hits "Got To Be There" and "Rockin' Robin"; and  
7 WHEREAS, In that same year, Mr. Jackson garnered his first  
8 number one hit single as a solo artist, "Ben," which won a  
9 Golden Globe and was nominated for an Academy of Motion Picture  
10 Arts and Sciences Award; and  
11 WHEREAS, In 1978, Mr. Jackson made his feature film debut,  
12 starring as the Scarecrow in *The Wiz*, directed by Quincy Jones,  
13 and many groundbreaking creative collaborations with Mr. Jones  
14 followed; and  
15 WHEREAS, In 1979, he released *Off The Wall*, his first album  
16 with Jones, which became a multiplatinum album and produced four  
17 Top 10 singles; and  
18 WHEREAS, In 1982, Mr. Jackson released *Thriller*, the best  
19 selling album of all time worldwide and the first album to top  
20 four of Billboard's charts simultaneously; it contained seven  
21 Top Ten hits, including chart topping "Billie Jean" and "Beat  
22 It"; and  
23 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson redefined the music video, changing it  
24 from a minor promotional tool to a major theatrical production,  
25 with videos like "Billie Jean," "Beat It," "Scream," "Remember  
26 the Time" and, perhaps most memorably, "Thriller"; and  
27 WHEREAS, He delighted millions of people when he performed  
28 the Moonwalk, a dance step that seemed to defy the laws of  
29 physics, as part of his performance of "Billie Jean" during  
30 *Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever*, which was broadcast on May

1 16, 1983; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1985, to form *USA for Africa*, Mr. Jackson united  
3 diverse musicians from across the United States, including  
4 Willie Nelson, Bruce Springsteen, Tina Turner and Bob Dylan,  
5 raising more than \$68 million to fight famine in Africa through  
6 sales of the single "We Are The World," which he wrote with  
7 Lionel Richie; and

8 WHEREAS, Charity remained close to Mr. Jackson's heart for  
9 the remainder of his life, as he had supported 39 charities,  
10 donating millions of dollars to help those less fortunate; and

11 WHEREAS, In honor of his accomplishments and his contribution  
12 to Rock and Roll, Mr. Jackson was inducted into the Rock and  
13 Roll Hall of Fame twice, once as a solo artist and once as a  
14 member of The Jackson 5; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson was planning a comeback series of  
16 concerts at the O2 Arena in London, called *This Is It*, which  
17 sold out in short order; and

18 WHEREAS, Michael Joseph Jackson passed away unexpectedly,  
19 just as he was beginning his return to the top of the music  
20 industry, on June 25, 2009; and

21 WHEREAS, He leaves behind a shocked and devastated family  
22 that includes his children, Michael Joseph Jr. (Prince Michael  
23 I), Paris and Prince Michael II; his parents, Katherine and  
24 Joseph; five brothers who were his partners in The Jackson 5 and  
25 its later incarnation, the Jacksons, Jackie, Tito, Jermaine,  
26 Marlon and Randy; and sisters, Rebbie, LaToya and Janet; and

27 WHEREAS, In the immediate aftermath of his untimely death,  
28 Mr. Jackson's music again climbed to the top of the charts,  
29 claiming the entire Top Ten roster of the Top Catalog Album  
30 Chart with sales of 800,000 albums in one week; and

1       WHEREAS, More than 31 million viewers watched the television  
2 memorial service for Mr. Jackson on July 7, 2009; and

3       WHEREAS, The gifts that Michael Jackson gave to the world  
4 through his talent and philanthropic giving will not soon be  
5 forgotten; therefore be it

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives celebrate the  
7 contributions of Michael Jackson to music, performance, culture  
8 and charity and extend sincere and heartfelt condolences to his  
9 family.