

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 182 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY WAGNER, KORTZ, BENNINGHOFF, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, D. COSTA, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HENNESSEY, HESS, KIRKLAND, KULA, MAHER, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MATZIE, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOUL, MURT, NEUMAN, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS, K. SMITH, M. SMITH, SONNEY, SWANGER, VULAKOVICH AND WHEATLEY, APRIL 6, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 6, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and contributions of Mrs. Rita Wilson Kane and
2 extending condolences to her family and colleagues.

3 WHEREAS, Serving as a pioneer on behalf of women in politics,
4 Rita Wilson Kane dedicated her life to public service in a time
5 when very few women participated in politics; and

6 WHEREAS, Rita Wilson Kane was born on October 1, 1915, in
7 Brookline; and

8 WHEREAS, A graduate of the former South Hills High School,
9 she began her career at the Allegheny County Office of Property
10 Assessment seated next to Sophie Masloff, the future mayor of
11 Pittsburgh; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Kane found an interest in politics in her early
13 years when she accompanied her father during a door-to-door
14 campaign for Al Smith, a presidential candidate in 1928; and

15 WHEREAS, Involvement in the 1932 and 1936 presidential

1 campaigns of Franklin D. Roosevelt served to temper Mrs. Kane's
2 commitment and inherent desire to serve as an agent of the
3 public; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1939, she took a job as secretary to Elinor Kane,
5 president of the Allegheny County Democratic Women's Guild, the
6 wife of County Commissioner John J. Kane, and the mother of John
7 J. Kane, Jr.; and

8 WHEREAS, Rita Kane and John J. Kane, Jr. were married in
9 December of 1940 after dating during the 1940 presidential
10 campaign of Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1959, she was elected to the Office of Register
12 of Wills of Allegheny County, a position she held for 32 years;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, A strong advocate for women in politics and other
15 areas of life, Mrs. Kane was involved in various Democratic
16 women's groups and organized luncheons that drew in hundreds of
17 female voters; and

18 WHEREAS, Her integrity and diligence garnered Mrs. Kane the
19 distinguished privilege of serving as both a delegate and
20 alternate delegate to Democratic National Conventions; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1979, Mrs. Kane was named Distinguished Daughter
22 of Pennsylvania; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1988, she received the Art Rooney Award for
24 contributions to Pittsburgh; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. Kane was honored and respected by many
26 dignitaries whom she called friends, including Eleanor
27 Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Jimmy Carter, John F. Kennedy and Ted
28 Kennedy; and

29 WHEREAS, On March 11, 2011, Rita Wilson Kane passed away at
30 the age of 95, leaving a legacy of public service that shall

1 live on for many years to come; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express its
3 profound sorrow over the passing of Mrs. Rita Wilson Kane and
4 extend its heartfelt condolences to her family, friends and
5 colleagues.