

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 348 Session of  
2011

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, HARKINS, DIGIROLAMO, KIRKLAND, V. BROWN,  
CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, D. COSTA, FABRIZIO, FLECK, GOODMAN,  
HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HESS, JOHNSON, MANN, MILLARD, MIRABITO,  
MUSTIO, M. SMITH, STABACK, STURLA, VULAKOVICH AND YOUNGBLOOD,  
JUNE 21, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE  
21, 2011

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the career and lifetime accomplishments of Oprah Gail  
2 Winfrey.

3 WHEREAS, Oprah Gail Winfrey was born on January 29, 1954, in  
4 Kosciusko, Mississippi; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1972, Oprah won the Miss Black Tennessee beauty  
6 pageant and started working with a local African-American radio  
7 station WVOL as a news presenter; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1973, Oprah graduated from Tennessee State  
9 University with a degree in speech and performing arts and  
10 became the first African-American TV news anchor reporter with  
11 WTVF-TV; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1983, Oprah moved to Chicago to host WLS-TV's  
13 low-rated half-hour morning talk show, AM Chicago, and within  
14 months, the show went on to become the highest rated talk show  
15 in Chicago and was renamed as "The Oprah Winfrey Show"; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1987, Oprah won her first Daytime Emmy award for

1 Outstanding Talk/Service Show Host and Outstanding Talk Show;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Oprah received the National Association for the  
4 Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Entertainer of the Year  
5 award in 1989; and

6 WHEREAS, Oprah testified before the United States Congress in  
7 support of the passage of the National Child Protection Act in  
8 1991; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1995, Oprah won an Emmy for Best Talk Show and  
10 Best Host for the second year in a row, started Oprah Online on  
11 AOL (America Online) in partnership with ABC and became the  
12 first woman and the only African American on Forbes list of 400  
13 richest Americans in the same year; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1996, Oprah received the prestigious George  
15 Foster Peabody's Individual Achievement Award and co-authored  
16 the book "A Journal of Daily Renewal: The Companion to Make the  
17 Connection" with Bob Greene; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1997, Oprah's Angel Network was formed which  
19 encouraged people to make charitable contributions and do  
20 volunteer work, and she co-authored another book "Uncommon  
21 Wisdom of Oprah Winfrey: A Portrait in Her Own Words" with Bill  
22 Adler; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1998, Oprah received a Lifetime Achievement Award  
24 from the Daytime Emmy Awards and an award for Outstanding  
25 Talk/Service Show Host; and

26 WHEREAS, In 2002, Oprah received the Bob Hope Humanitarian  
27 Award at the 2002 Emmy Awards for her services to television and  
28 film; and

29 WHEREAS, In 2005, Oprah was named by Time magazine as one of  
30 the 100 most influential people of the year and ranked in 9th

1 place in a public poll of the greatest Americans; and

2 WHEREAS, Oprah Winfrey was also the first African-American  
3 person listed by Business Week as one of America's top 50 most  
4 generous philanthropists.

5 WHEREAS, Oprah has invested \$40 million and much of her time  
6 creating the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls near  
7 Johannesburg, South Africa, which started in January 2007; and

8 WHEREAS, Oprah's efforts were applauded by Nelson Mandela,  
9 who congratulated her for overcoming her own disadvantaged youth  
10 to become a benefactor for others and for investing in the  
11 future of South Africa; and

12 WHEREAS, Through the power of media, Oprah Winfrey has created  
13 an unparalleled connection with people around the world, her  
14 accomplishments as a global media leader and philanthropist have  
15 established her as one of the most respected and admired public  
16 figures today and, as supervising producer and host of the top-  
17 rated, award-winning *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, she has  
18 entertained, enlightened and uplifted millions of views for the  
19 past two and a half decades; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and  
21 honor the career and lifetime accomplishments of Oprah Gail  
22 Winfrey.