

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 803 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY WATERS, THOMAS, PARKER, BRADFORD, CALTAGIRONE,
CONKLIN, DALEY, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, GEORGE, GINGRICH,
GODSHALL, GOODMAN, HELM, YOUNGBLOOD, FABRIZIO, HENNESSEY,
JAMES, MAHONEY, MILLARD, READSHAW, ROCK, ROEBUCK, VEREB AND
WILLIAMS, JULY 31, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JULY
31, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of business leader, attorney, author and
2 historian, Edward W. Robinson, Jr., and extending condolences
3 to his family and friends.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Edward W. Robinson, Jr., was born on April 24,
5 1918, in Philadelphia; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson attended Philadelphia Public Schools
7 and graduated from Central High School; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson continued his education by earning an
9 undergraduate degree from Virginia State College for Negroes,
10 now known as Virginia State University, in 1940 and also
11 attended both the Wharton School of the University of
12 Pennsylvania and Temple University School of Law; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson began a successful career in insurance
14 in 1950, becoming an owner and executive of the Provident Home
15 Industrial Mutual Life Insurance Company; and

16 WHEREAS, By 1974, with Mr. Robinson as its chief executive,

1 the company was ranked by Black Enterprises Magazine 20th among
2 the nation's 100 biggest African-American-owned businesses, with
3 117 employees and \$2.7 million in assets; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson was also dedicated to public service;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, After serving as a member of the board of directors
7 for the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia from 1972 to 1975,
8 he was appointed by Governor Milton Shapp to direct the
9 Pennsylvania Bureau of Occupational Affairs, where he oversaw
10 the Commonwealth's professional licensing boards; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1980, Mr. Robinson returned to Philadelphia to
12 continue his public service on the local level as the assistant
13 managing director for the city's Office of Minority
14 Opportunities; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson later became the director of
16 Philadelphia's Office of Minority Opportunities and strove to
17 increase entrepreneurship among minorities; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson was well known for his passion and
19 advocacy of African and African-American history and his
20 interest inspired him to produce films and coauthor such books
21 as *Twas the Night Before Kwanza* and the *Journey of the Songhai*
22 *People*; and

23 WHEREAS, His animated children's story, *The Songhai Princess*,
24 won several national awards; and

25 WHEREAS, In addition to his books and films, he drafted
26 educational guidelines for teaching African-American history for
27 the Philadelphia City School District; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson further demonstrated his commitment to
29 educating the community about African and African-American
30 history when he developed the curriculum for the d'Zert Club of

1 Philadelphia; and

2 WHEREAS, On June 13, 2012, Mr. Robinson passed away at the
3 age of 94, surrounded by family and friends; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson is survived by his wife, Harriette C.
5 Robinson; his daughters, Pamela Robinson-Johnson and Michelle
6 Harman; his sister, Elaine A. Richardson; nine grandchildren;
7 eight great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson will be remembered for his unwavering
10 commitment to public service and entrepreneurship and for his
11 contributions to education in the African-American community and
12 this Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson's legacy will never be forgotten;
14 therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life of
16 Edward W. Robinson, Jr., express its sadness upon his passing
17 and offer its condolences to his family and friends; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
20 Ms. Elaine Richardson, 5325 Old York Road, Apt. 717,
21 Philadelphia, PA 19141-3925.