

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 813 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY QUINN, PAYNE, CLYMER, DIGIROLAMO, O'NEILL, BAKER, BEAR, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, D. COSTA, DALEY, DENLINGER, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FLECK, GEORGE, GILLEN, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRELL, GROVE, HARHART, HARPER, HELM, HESS, HICKERNELL, JAMES, KULA, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MUSTIO, PARKER, PICKETT, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, ROCK, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SCHMOTZER, SONNEY, SWANGER, TALLMAN, VEREB, GOODMAN AND BENNINGHOFF, AUGUST 20, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, AUGUST 20, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 11, 2012, as "Four Diamonds Fund Day" in
2 Pennsylvania and encouraging all citizens to contribute to
3 the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's
4 Hospital and other pediatric cancer research programs.

5 WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health identifies cancer
6 as the leading cause of death by disease among children in the
7 United States between infancy and 15 years of age; and

8 WHEREAS, Approximately 11,500 children are diagnosed with
9 cancer in the United States each year; and

10 WHEREAS, Due to improvements in treatment and advancements in
11 research, the combined five-year survival rate for all childhood
12 cancers has improved from less than 50% before the 1970s to 80%
13 today; and

14 WHEREAS, Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital has a unique
15 program that directly supports children and families facing a

1 pediatric cancer diagnosis; and

2 WHEREAS, The mission of the Four Diamonds Fund is to conquer
3 childhood cancer by assisting children treated at Penn State
4 Hershey Children's Hospital and their families through superior
5 care, comprehensive support and innovative research; and

6 WHEREAS, Just hours after their 14-year-old son Christopher
7 lost his three-year battle with cancer, Charles and Irma Millard
8 founded the Four Diamonds Fund on December 21, 1972; and

9 WHEREAS, The name of the Four Diamonds Fund was taken from an
10 essay that Christopher wrote shortly before his death, telling
11 of a knight's quest for the four diamonds of wisdom, courage,
12 honesty and strength, symbolizing the characteristics
13 Christopher believed were necessary in his cancer battle; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the last 40 years, the Four Diamonds Fund has
15 raised more than \$100 million to help thousands of children
16 battling cancer at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital and
17 search for improved treatments and cures to benefit all children
18 across the globe; and

19 WHEREAS, Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital has been
20 recognized as one of the best hospitals in the country for
21 pediatric cancer care by *U.S. News and World Report*; and

22 WHEREAS, With the generous support of donors to the Four
23 Diamonds Fund, Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital is able to
24 provide superior care and comprehensive support each year for an
25 average of 600 patients and their families who are starting or
26 continuing their cancer fight; and

27 WHEREAS, Through the four diamonds of courage, wisdom,
28 honesty and strength, each of us can share in helping children
29 and their families in their battle against pediatric cancer; and

30 WHEREAS, The year 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of the Four

1 Diamonds Fund; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
3 September 11, 2012, as "Four Diamonds Fund Day" in Pennsylvania
4 and encourage all citizens to contribute to the Four Diamonds
5 Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital and other
6 pediatric cancer research programs.