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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 17 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY SACCONI, STERN, BIZZARRO, AUMENT, CALTAGIRONE,  
KNOWLES, MILLARD, KAUFFMAN, MCNEILL, RAPP, CUTLER, BAKER,  
DENLINGER, D. COSTA, REESE, MALONEY, BLOOM, HESS, READSHAW,  
FLECK, ROCK, METCALFE AND ROAE, JANUARY 14, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 14, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 30, 2013, as "National Fast Day" in honor of  
2 the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's  
3 Proclamation Appointing a National Fast Day.

4 WHEREAS, The following proclamation was made by President  
5 Abraham Lincoln on March 30, 1863:

6 "A Proclamation.

7 Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly  
8 recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of  
9 Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by  
10 a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart  
11 a day for National prayer and humiliation.

12 And whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to  
13 own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to  
14 confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet  
15 with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and  
16 pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the  
17 Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations

1 only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

2 And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations  
3 like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements  
4 in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of  
5 civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a  
6 punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins, to the  
7 needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? We  
8 have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We  
9 have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity.  
10 We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation  
11 has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the  
12 gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and  
13 enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in  
14 the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were  
15 produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.  
16 Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-  
17 sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving  
18 grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

19 It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended  
20 Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency  
21 and forgiveness.

22 Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully  
23 concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my  
24 proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th. day of  
25 April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting and  
26 prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain, on  
27 that day, from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, at  
28 their several places of public worship and their respective  
29 homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the  
30 humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn

1 occasion.

2 All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest  
3 humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the  
4 united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered  
5 with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins,  
6 and the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to  
7 its former happy condition of unity and peace.

8 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused  
9 the seal of the United States to be affixed.

10 Done at the City of Washington, this thirtieth day of March,  
11 in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-  
12 three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty  
13 seventh.

14 By the President: Abraham Lincoln

15 William H. Seward, Secretary of State."

16 therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April  
18 30, 2013, as "National Fast Day" in honor of the 150th  
19 anniversary of Lincoln's Proclamation.