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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 596 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY FLYNN, COHEN, YOUNGBLOOD, BROWNLEE, HARKINS, SCHLOSSBERG, MILLARD, CRUZ, READSHAW, ROZZI, BIZZARRO, DiGIROLAMO, MIRABITO, KORTZ, THOMAS, PARKER, LUCAS, KINSEY, NEILSON, DeLUCA, CALTAGIRONE, ROCK, V. BROWN, CLAY, MCNEILL, D. COSTA, GINGRICH, SABATINA, ROEBUCK, ROSS, MAJOR, MURT, CLYMER, SIMS, J. HARRIS, W. KELLER, MIRANDA, McGEEHAN, O'BRIEN, FARINA, K. BOYLE, D. EVANS AND CHRISTIANA, JANUARY 13, 2014

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, FEBRUARY 4, 2014

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring Bernard Hopkins for his achievements and contributions to the sport of boxing and for his philanthropic efforts benefiting Philadelphia youth.

WHEREAS, Bernard Hopkins was born January 15, 1965, and was raised in the Germantown section of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, As a youth, Bernard Hopkins found himself involved with gangs and began committing petty crimes, eventually escalating to felony offenses which landed him in State prison facing a sentence of 18 years; and

WHEREAS, During his incarceration, Mr. Hopkins ~~cultivated a new and improved mental and spiritual foundation and more importantly~~ discovered his passion for the sport of boxing; and <--

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins wisely utilized his time while incarcerated to hone his boxing skills in preparation to pursue a professional career in the sport upon his release; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, after 56 months of confinement, Mr. Hopkins was released from prison at 23 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Staying true to his ambition, Mr. Hopkins officially turned professional as a light-heavyweight soon after his release, but lost his first professional bout to Clinton Mitchell on October 11, 1988; and

WHEREAS, On February 22, 1990, Mr. Hopkins achieved his first professional win against Greg Paige in a four-round decision, crediting his Spartan-like work ethic to his new trainer, Bouie Fisher, who played a pivotal role in the shaping of his illustrious career; and

WHEREAS, During the period between 1990 and 1992, Mr. Hopkins, under the tutelage of trainer Bouie Fisher, worked his way through the middleweight journeyman ranks and achieved a remarkable 19 consecutive victories; and

WHEREAS, On December 4, 1992, Mr. Hopkins won the United States Boxing Association (USBA) Middleweight Title against veteran Wayne Powell in a mere 21 seconds by a knockout; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins would finally receive an opportunity to contend for a world title shot against Roy Jones, Jr., on May 22, 1993; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins lost this bout in 12 hard-fought rounds by a unanimous decision, suffering only the second loss of his still-budding career; and

WHEREAS, Two title defenses followed which earned Mr. Hopkins a second shot at contending for a world title; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins finally earned the title of world champion in convincing fashion against Segundo Mercado on April 29, 1995; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Mr. Hopkins was named Ring Magazine Fighter

of the Year and World Hall of Fame Fighter of the Year; and

WHEREAS, In February 2003, Mr. Hopkins not only used his physical prowess to make an impact upon the boxing world, he also was an outspoken advocate for fighters' rights, even testifying before Congress in support of the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins continued to establish himself as an all-time great, successfully defending his title for a record-setting 20th time; and

WHEREAS, Although his title defense streak would finally come to an end on July 15, 2005, soon thereafter, Mr. Hopkins achieved the amazing feat of moving up two weight classes and capturing the light-heavyweight title against Antonio Tarver on June 10, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins regained the middleweight title on October 18, 2008, and twice defended the light-heavyweight title against boxing elites Roy Jones, Jr., and Winky Wright; and

WHEREAS, On May 21, 2011, in a bout for the light-heavyweight title against Jean Pascal, Mr. Hopkins further solidified his legacy as one of the greatest fighters in the history of the sport by becoming the oldest world champion in boxing history at 46 years of age; and

WHEREAS, On April 28, 2012, Mr. Hopkins lost his World Boxing Council light-heavyweight title to Chad Dawson by decision; and

WHEREAS, On March 9, 2013, Mr. Hopkins won the International Boxing Federation light-heavyweight title from Travis Cloud and retained the title on October 26, 2013, by defeating Karo Murat; and

WHEREAS, To date, Mr. Hopkins has compiled a stellar record of 54 wins, 6 losses and 2 draws, with 32 of the victories by

knockout (KO) and is regarded as an unequivocal future hall of fame inductee; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Mr. Hopkins established the Bernard and Shirley Hopkins "Make A Way" Foundation in honor of his late mother; and

WHEREAS, The "Make A Way" Foundation has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to raise awareness to help make a way for Philadelphia's underprivileged youth; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and honor Bernard Hopkins for his achievements and contributions to the sport of boxing and for his philanthropic efforts benefiting Philadelphia youth.