

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 995 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, COHEN, BISHOP, SONNEY, THOMAS, DERMODY, HARKINS, DEASY, MIRABITO, CLAY, LONGIETTI, McNEILL, DIGIROLAMO, D. MILLER, PARKER, SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE, LUCAS, P. COSTA, KINSEY, SCAVELLO, HARHART, ELLIS, FARINA, MILLARD, MARSHALL, HAGGERTY, GAINNEY, RAVENSTAHL, REED, KIRKLAND, HENNESSEY, BIZZARRO, BROWNLEE, GIBBONS, YOUNGBLOOD, SNYDER, GODSHALL, PASHINSKI, HAHN, FREEMAN, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, GRELL, McCARTER, SABATINA, ROSS, TURZAI, MURT, CARROLL, GROVE, MARSICO, D. COSTA, FLECK, WHITE, GOODMAN AND MAHONEY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and public service of Sophie Masloff, 56th  
 2 mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, and expressing condolences  
 3 to her family and friends on her recent death.

4 WHEREAS, Sophie Masloff was born in the Hill District of  
 5 Pittsburgh on December 23, 1917, to Romanian immigrants Louis  
 6 and Jennie Friedman; and

7 WHEREAS, Sophie's father died when she was a young child; and

8 WHEREAS, Sophie's mother, who could neither read nor write  
 9 nor speak English, rolled cigars in a factory to support the  
 10 family; and

11 WHEREAS, Sophie graduated from Fifth Avenue High School in  
 12 1935 and soon became employed in Allegheny County government;  
 13 and

14 WHEREAS, For 38 years, Sophie worked as a clerk for the

1 Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas; and

2 WHEREAS, Sophie's passion for politics began when she saw  
3 First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt dedicate a local housing project;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 1976, Sophie captured a seat on the Pittsburgh  
6 City Council in a special election; and

7 WHEREAS, Sophie was subsequently reelected to this post in  
8 1977, 1981 and 1985; and

9 WHEREAS, Sophie earned recognition as the first female  
10 president of city council in 1988; and

11 WHEREAS, That same year, Sophie was appointed interim mayor  
12 after the sudden death of Mayor Richard S. Caliguiri; and

13 WHEREAS, Sophie attained distinction as the City of  
14 Pittsburgh's first female and first Jewish chief executive; and

15 WHEREAS, Elected to a full four-year term as mayor in 1989,  
16 Sophie improved neighborhoods throughout the city through her  
17 focus on reducing blight, strengthening economic development and  
18 reversing population decline; and

19 WHEREAS, During her tenure as mayor, Sophie confronted a  
20 number of challenges, including budget deficits and loss of  
21 manufacturing jobs; and

22 WHEREAS, As council member and as mayor, Sophie laid the  
23 groundwork for the vibrant City of Pittsburgh we see today; and

24 WHEREAS, Presently the City of Pittsburgh is a regional hub  
25 for health care, education and service jobs; and

26 WHEREAS, Since the mid-1980s, numerous national publications  
27 have consistently ranked the City of Pittsburgh as one of the  
28 best cities in the United States to live in and raise a family;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, As a public official, Sophie fought against societal

1 stereotypes and discrimination in all forms; and

2 WHEREAS, Sophie opened many doors for women and members of  
3 the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community when she  
4 signed Ordinance 2 of 1990; and

5 WHEREAS, Sophie's intellect, humility, candor and grace  
6 positively changed attitudes about the City of Pittsburgh among  
7 residents and visitors; and

8 WHEREAS, After leaving the mayor's office in 1994, Sophie  
9 remained active in the community and in politics; and

10 WHEREAS, Sophie attended every Democratic National Convention  
11 until 2004 and remained a fixture in civic functions throughout  
12 the region; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2007, the City of Pittsburgh celebrated Sophie's  
14 90th birthday by designating the corner of West General Robinson  
15 and Federal streets near PNC Park as "Sophie Masloff Way"; and

16 WHEREAS, Sophie died of natural causes on August 17, 2014, at  
17 96 years of age; and

18 WHEREAS, Sophie's husband of more than 50 years, Jack, died  
19 in 1991; and

20 WHEREAS, Sophie is survived by her daughter, granddaughter,  
21 grandson, great-granddaughter and niece; and

22 WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that the House of  
23 Representatives recognize the tremendous impact Sophie had on  
24 the Greater Pittsburgh region; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life  
26 and public service of Sophie Masloff, 56th mayor of the City of  
27 Pittsburgh, and express condolences to her family and friends on  
28 her recent death.