

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 873 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY PAYNE, READSHAW, BARRAR, BIZZARRO, CALTAGIRONE,
COHEN, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DeLUCA, DIAMOND,
DIGIROLAMO, DUSH, GIBBONS, HELM, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL,
PHILLIPS-HILL, IRVIN, JAMES, JOZWIAK, KAUFFMAN, KINSEY,
KIRKLAND, MALONEY, MARSHALL, MARSICO, METZGAR, MILLARD,
NEILSON, O'NEILL, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, SAYLOR, SONNEY, VEREB,
WARD, WATSON, WHEELAND AND MAJOR, MAY 10, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 10, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted
2 Masons of Pennsylvania for its work and commitment to
3 children.

4 WHEREAS, The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons is the
5 oldest, largest and most widely known fraternal organization in
6 the world; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1717, four lodges of Freemasons meeting in
8 London, England, formed the first Grand Lodge; and

9 WHEREAS, The first Grand Lodge chartered Symbolic Lodges and
10 Provincial Grand Lodges in many countries, including the United
11 States; and

12 WHEREAS, Today there are 51 Grand Lodges in the United States
13 and approximately 1,600,000 Freemasons; and

14 WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of
15 Pennsylvania (Lodge) was established on June 24, 1731, by

delegates from the 13 lodges holding charters from the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, The Lodge is one of the oldest Grand Lodges in this
country; and

WHEREAS, The Lodge is of the Ancients' tradition and its
ancestor Grand Lodge is the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted
Masons of England, which was founded in 1751; and

WHEREAS, The headquarters of the Lodge is in the Masonic
Temple at 1 North Broad Street in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Brother Raymond T. Dietz is the current Grand Master
of the Lodge; and

WHEREAS, Freemasonry is a way of life that teaches tolerance
toward all mankind; and

WHEREAS, According to the Lodge, "Freemasonry is kindness in
the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, fairness in
work, pity and concern for the unfortunate, resistance towards
evil, help for the weak, forgiveness for the penitent, love for
one another and above all reverence and love for God"; and

WHEREAS, Shriners International, also commonly known as the
Shriners, is an organization that is an appendant body of
freemasonry and that operates 20 children's hospitals in the
United States with two in this Commonwealth, including one in
Erie and one in Philadelphia, and two children's hospitals in
Canada and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Shriners Hospitals for Children is one of the
largest pediatric subspecialty health care systems in the world,
providing specialized care to children with orthopedic
conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and
palate; and

WHEREAS, The Shriners are dedicated to improving the lives of

children through innovative care, world-class research and
outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals; and

WHEREAS, Each of the 22 children's hospital locations
specializes in one or more of the broad service lines of
specialized care, and all care and services are provided to
children up to 18 years of age regardless of the families'
ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, For more than two decades, the Scottish Rite Masons,
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, have been national leaders in the
effort to help children and their families overcome the painful
obstacles of dyslexia; and

WHEREAS, With more than 40 dyslexia centers in 13 states, the
Children's Dyslexia Centers tackle the challenge of dyslexia by
providing free tutoring for children with dyslexia and by
training a growing cadre of highly skilled and dedicated tutors;
and

WHEREAS, The treatment of dyslexia, which is an inherited
neurological disorder that affects the way individuals learn to
read and speak as well as how they process things
mathematically, is critical to enable individuals to achieve
fully functional lives; and

WHEREAS, Dyslexia affects one out of every five individuals
and affects boys and girls in equal numbers; and

WHEREAS, The efforts of the Lodge, and freemasonry in
general, through the Shriners and the Children's Dyslexia
Centers on behalf of children are invaluable and indispensable;
therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
honor the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of
Pennsylvania for its work and commitment to children.