
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 279 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, LEWIS, FREEMAN, V. BROWN, BIZZARRO,
TOOHIL, DUSH, SONNEY, BAKER, CHARLTON, PASHINSKI, SOLOMON,
MURT, MUSTIO, O'NEILL, DAVIS, BARRAR, JAMES, DIGIROLAMO,
WATSON, W. KELLER, VAZQUEZ, CALTAGIRONE, DRISCOLL, BULLOCK,
COX, QUIGLEY, McNEILL, CORR, MILLARD, O'BRIEN, DeLUCA,
SCHWEYER, PHILLIPS-HILL, GOODMAN, HENNESSEY, WARD, J. HARRIS,
BARBIN, MILNE, MARSICO AND RYAN, APRIL 24, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 24, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Remembering the distinguished military service and widely
2 respected citizenship of retired Air Force Major John L.
3 Harrison, Jr., a decorated Tuskegee Airman and longtime
4 resident of the City of Philadelphia's Society Hill
5 neighborhood who died on March 22, 2017, at 96 years of age.

6 WHEREAS, Born in Kansas on December 14, 1920, Major John L.
7 Harrison, Jr., graduated from the former Omaha University in
8 Nebraska; and

9 WHEREAS, Major Harrison's specialized flight training as a
10 command pilot began with a segregated military unit in Alabama,
11 where he was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen; and

12 WHEREAS, In his service with the Air Force and its
13 predecessor military branch, the Army Air Corps, Major Harrison
14 bravely met the challenges of combat and the continuing
15 challenges of discrimination; and

16 WHEREAS, Major Harrison attained distinction as the first

1 African-American pilot and flight commander to regularly fly
2 transatlantic and transpacific flights for the United States
3 Military Air Transport Service; and

4 WHEREAS, Following retirement from the Air Force in 1963,
5 Major Harrison was a Peace Corps foreign service reserve officer
6 stationed in East Africa; and

7 WHEREAS, Major Harrison later served as an official in the
8 administrations of President Richard Nixon and Governor Dick
9 Thornburgh and as an executive with Girard Bank and Boeing
10 Aircraft; and

11 WHEREAS, Major Harrison further dedicated his energies to
12 Rotary International, the American Helicopter Society, the Urban
13 League of Philadelphia and the Society Hill Synagogue community;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Major Harrison earned the Air Force Longevity
16 Service Award with four oak leaf clusters; and

17 WHEREAS, With his fellow surviving Tuskegee Airmen, Major
18 Harrison was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007; and

19 WHEREAS, Major Harrison's children, Joan, John, Richard and
20 Darryll, and his nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren
21 survive him; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives remember the
23 distinguished military service and widely respected citizenship
24 of retired Air Force Major John L. Harrison, Jr., a decorated
25 Tuskegee Airman and longtime resident of the City of
26 Philadelphia's Society Hill neighborhood who died on March 22,
27 2017, at 96 years of age.