
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 607 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, THOMAS, CALTAGIRONE, DRISCOLL, MURT,
KINSEY, DAVIS, MILLARD, RABB, PASHINSKI, SCHWEYER AND
KIRKLAND, NOVEMBER 21, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 21, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating November 2, 2017, as "Wendell Freeland Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Wendell Freeland was born in 1925; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Freeland was drafted in 1943 and became a
5 bombardier for the Tuskegee Airmen who, during World War II,
6 became the military's first African-American pilots; and

7 WHEREAS, After leaving the military, Mr. Freeland won a
8 scholarship to Howard University, where he graduated cum laude
9 in 1947; and

10 WHEREAS, He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and
11 earned his law degree from the University of Maryland School of
12 Law in 1950; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Freeland then moved to Pittsburgh, was admitted
14 to the bar in 1951 and soon became involved in the Highland Park
15 Swimming Pool case in which he sued the city to assure the
16 safety of African Americans who tried to swim there; and

17 WHEREAS, He later chaired the Urban League of Greater

1 Pittsburgh's Board's Education Committee and established the
2 paradigm for dialogue between the African-American community and
3 the Pittsburgh Public Schools' Board that laid the foundation
4 not only for desegregation but also for the hiring of African-
5 American teachers; and

6 WHEREAS, From 1962 to 1967, he served as Chairman of the
7 Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's Board of Directors; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Freeland helped convince the Pennsylvania
9 Supreme Court in 2010 to posthumously admit George Vashon, a
10 black attorney who was turned down in 1847 and 1868 and later
11 practiced before the United States Supreme Court, to the
12 Allegheny County bar; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Freeland was a huge fan of the Pittsburgh
14 Steelers; and

15 WHEREAS, On January 24, 2014, Mr. Freeland died at 88 years
16 of age due to pancreatic cancer; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Freeland was survived by his wife, Jane Young
18 Freeland, two children, Michael W. Freeland and Lisa B.
19 Freeland, and two grandchildren; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
21 November 2, 2017, as "Wendell Freeland Day" in Pennsylvania.