

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1038 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY A. DAVIS, BIZZARRO, READSHAW, DONATUCCI, KINSEY,
HENNESSEY, KIRKLAND, WARREN, McCLINTON, NEILSON, HILL-EVANS,
LONGIETTI, DRISCOLL, RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG, GROVE, J. HARRIS,
BARRAR, MILLARD, SAYLOR, SCHWEYER, JOZWIAK, MARSICO,
PASHINSKI, DIGIROLAMO AND EVERETT, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and substantial accomplishments of Aretha
2 Franklin.

3 WHEREAS, On March 25, 1942, Aretha Louise Franklin was born
4 to Barbara Siggers Franklin and C.L. Franklin who were,
5 respectively, a gospel singer and famous pastor; and

6 WHEREAS, Her father's career as a pastor led the family from
7 Memphis to Buffalo and then to Detroit, where his dynamic
8 sermons were broadcast nationwide and recorded; and

9 WHEREAS, When she was six years of age, Ms. Franklin's
10 parents separated, leaving her in her father's care; and

11 WHEREAS, The Franklin household was always filled with music
12 and was situated near the houses of future Motown artists such
13 as Smokey Robinson and Diana Ross; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Franklin began teaching herself to play piano
15 before she was 10 years of age and joined her father on tour at
16 12 years of age, playing piano and belting gospel songs in

1 various churches; and

2 WHEREAS, The first recordings of Ms. Franklin's gospel
3 singing came when she was 14 years of age and soon thereafter
4 she shifted her career toward secular music, a decision that led
5 to her eventually becoming known as the "Queen of Soul"; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Franklin had 88 Billboard chart hits and, during
7 the peak of her career, more than two dozen Top 40 hits; and

8 WHEREAS, She won 18 Grammy awards, including Top R&B Female
9 Artist for eight consecutive years; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Franklin's songs not only topped the music
11 charts they also became part of our cultural vernacular with
12 hits such as "Respect" and "Think" remembered not just for their
13 melodious rhythms, but also for standing as beacons of racial
14 and gender empowerment; and

15 WHEREAS, She performed at numerous noteworthy events,
16 including the presidential inauguration in 2009, preinauguration
17 concerts in 1977 and 1993 and at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
18 funeral in 1968; and

19 WHEREAS, Rolling Stone Magazine called Aretha Franklin "one
20 of the most influential and important voices in pop history"
21 while former President Barack Obama said that she was someone
22 who "helped define the American experience"; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1987, Ms. Franklin's numerous accomplishments
24 resulted in her being the first woman admitted into the Rock and
25 Roll Hall of Fame; and

26 WHEREAS, She used her fame for more than personal benefit,
27 becoming one of the most charitable musical stars of her day by
28 supporting an expansive spectrum of causes, including raising
29 money to combat childhood diabetes and malnutrition, promoting
30 efforts toward rainforest preservation and providing resources

1 for at-risk youth; and

2 WHEREAS, Aretha Franklin suffered from advanced pancreatic
3 cancer and passed away at 9:50 a.m. on Thursday, August 16,
4 2018, surrounded by family and friends at her home in Detroit,
5 Michigan; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
7 and substantial accomplishments of Aretha Franklin, an
8 influential national icon; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives extend its
10 deepest condolences to the surviving family members and friends
11 of Aretha Franklin.