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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 609 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY KOSIEROWSKI, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, BURNS, DIGIROLAMO,  
HANBIDGE, BOBACK, MILLARD, KINSEY, JOHNSON-HARRELL, VITALI,  
HILL-EVANS, NEILSON, READSHAW, DEASY, HEFFLEY, YOUNGBLOOD AND  
JOZWIAK, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring January 4, 2020, as the 150th anniversary of the  
2 founding of Jermyn Borough in Lackawanna County,  
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Jermyn Borough, known as "The Birthplace of First  
5 Aid in America," is located in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania,  
6 along the Lackawanna River that separates the east and west  
7 sides of the borough; and

8 WHEREAS, Jermyn Borough was founded by John Jermyn, a  
9 businessman in the mining industry who later became Jermyn  
10 Borough's mayor; and

11 WHEREAS, Jermyn Borough was officially recognized as a  
12 borough by the Commonwealth in 1870 and the elected officials of  
13 Jermyn Borough consist of a mayor and a seven-member council;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Jermyn Borough was built on coal mining,  
16 cut-glass work, silk, powder, grist, planing and sawmills,  
17 bottling work and fertilization industries in the early 20th

1 century; and

2 WHEREAS, The original settlers of the area that now  
3 constitutes Jermyn Borough discovered anthracite, or hard coal,  
4 and dug the first mine shaft in 1857; and

5 WHEREAS, The population of Jermyn Borough grew to 3,158  
6 residents in 1910, but has declined over the years and stands  
7 at 2,169 according to the 2010 Federal decennial census; and

8 WHEREAS, The most famous event to happen in the history of  
9 Jermyn Borough occurred October 25, 1899, when Dr. Matthew J.  
10 Shields conducted the first training class on first aid in  
11 American history at the Windsor Hotel; and

12 WHEREAS, There were 25 miners from the Jermyn Coal Colliery  
13 in attendance and they believed that many lives could be spared  
14 during a mining accident with quick, efficient medical care  
15 until a physician could reach the mine; and

16 WHEREAS, Once the training class was completed, each of the  
17 miners was prepared and able to render first aid to individuals  
18 injured at the mine; and

19 WHEREAS, The training class led to marked decreases in  
20 serious mining injuries and fatalities as well as the creation  
21 of laws and guidelines for safer workplaces all over the United  
22 States; and

23 WHEREAS, The miners willingness to learn first aid  
24 demonstrates the proactive attitude and commitment of the  
25 residents of Jermyn Borough to their community; and

26 WHEREAS, In Jermyn Borough's modern history, the residents of  
27 Jermyn Borough prove to be proud of their history as well as  
28 supportive in social change movements taking place across the  
29 United States, such as women's equality; and

30 WHEREAS, On November 6, 1973, the residents of Jermyn Borough

1 elected longtime teacher Eleanor Cawley as the first female  
2 mayor in Lackawanna County; and

3 WHEREAS, In June 1974, the council of Jermyn Borough  
4 appointed Betty Lou Tucker to the police force, making her the  
5 first female patrolwoman in Lackawanna County; and

6 WHEREAS, Today, Jermyn Borough continues to thrive through  
7 the efforts of its elected officials, community groups and  
8 civic-minded residents; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor January 4,  
10 2020, as the 150th anniversary of the founding of Jermyn Borough  
11 in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.