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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 220 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY SAPPEY, HOHENSTEIN, MILLARD, SANCHEZ, KINSEY,  
DALEY AND D. WILLIAMS, JULY 8, 2022

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,  
JULY 8, 2022

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and accomplishments of Humphry Marshall on  
2 October 10, 2022, on the 300th anniversary of his birth in  
3 this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Humphry Marshall was a renowned botanist from  
5 Chester County, who helped shape American botanical practice  
6 during the 18th and early 19th centuries; and

7 WHEREAS, His parents were English Quaker immigrants who  
8 established a farm near the west branch of the Brandywine Creek,  
9 located in Chester County; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall, also a Quaker, spent his early life  
11 working in agriculture and later became an apprentice to a stone  
12 mason before assuming responsibility for his family's farm  
13 around 1748; and

14 WHEREAS, Soon after, Mr. Marshall began making foraging trips  
15 to gather plants and seeds for a small botanical garden that he  
16 developed on his family's property; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall also began collecting seeds for his  
18 cousin John Bartram, a botanist, horticulturalist and explorer

1 who established the Bartram Botanic Garden and Nursery near  
2 Philadelphia in the early 1730s; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Bartram made significant contributions to the  
4 collection, study and international dissemination of North  
5 American flora and fauna and was a pioneer in the importation  
6 and cultivation of non-native plants; and

7 WHEREAS, With his cousin's encouragement and advice, Mr.  
8 Marshall developed considerable skills as a practical botanist  
9 by the early 1740s; and

10 WHEREAS, Through his association with fellow Quaker botanists  
11 of Chester County, Mr. Marshall was noticed by the Anglo-  
12 American scientific community as a collector and supplier of  
13 native plant and animal specimens; and

14 WHEREAS, As his reputation grew, so did his circle of clients  
15 and correspondents, which included leading botanists such as  
16 Benjamin Franklin, George Logan, Timothy Pickering, John  
17 Dickinson, Caspar Wistar, Hector St. Jean de Crèvecoeur and  
18 Johannes Fredericus Gronovius; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1764, due to his growing success, Mr. Marshall  
20 constructed a conservatory on his farm for the culture of rare  
21 plants; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1767, with the inheritance that he received upon  
23 the death of his father, Mr. Marshall was able to turn his full  
24 attention to the pursuit of botany; and

25 WHEREAS, On April 8, 1768, Mr. Marshall was elected as a  
26 corresponding member of the American Society, now known as the  
27 American Philosophical Society, which was founded by Benjamin  
28 Franklin to promote knowledge in the sciences and humanities  
29 through research, meetings, publications, library resource and  
30 community outreach; and

1       WHEREAS, Although Mr. Marshall never attended a meeting of  
2 the American Society, he remained in regular communication with  
3 it until his death; and

4       WHEREAS, By 1772, Mr. Marshall's estate had become an export-  
5 oriented botanical garden, which was stocked with herbaceous and  
6 arboreal representatives of local flora and as many exotic  
7 plants as could be obtained both domestically and abroad in  
8 Europe; and

9       WHEREAS, Although the transatlantic trade of plants suffered  
10 during the American Revolution, it did not cease, and Mr.  
11 Marshall's business escaped relatively unscathed; and

12       WHEREAS, As a Quaker, Mr. Marshall was not active in the  
13 American Revolution, but he sympathized with the cause for  
14 independence and was a fervent supporter of the nonimportation  
15 movement, which was a boycott of the importation of goods from  
16 England; and

17       WHEREAS, While Mr. Marshall's scientific publications were  
18 few, his most important writing, the "Abrustrum Americanum," was  
19 published in 1785 and dedicated to Benjamin Franklin and the  
20 other members of the American Society; and

21       WHEREAS, Although this publication was not specifically  
22 devoted to plant life in the southeastern region of the United  
23 States, it provided an important contribution to the botanical  
24 study of that region; and

25       WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall's extensive study of plants acquired on  
26 expeditions in this region and also by local suppliers located  
27 in the Carolinas provided the basis for this publication; and

28       WHEREAS, The "Abrustrum Americanum" provided an exhaustive  
29 list of tree and shrub species native to the United States and  
30 served as a catalogue for botanical clients, as well as to

1 promote the importance and value of American flora and science;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Although Mr. Marshall died in 1801, the present-day  
4 village and historic district of Marshallton, located in West  
5 Bradford Township, Chester County, bears the surname of the  
6 Marshall family and serves as a reminder of the important  
7 botanical contributions that Mr. Marshall made to the scientific  
8 world; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
10 honor the life and accomplishments of Humphry Marshall on  
11 October 10, 2022, on the 300th anniversary of his birth in this  
12 Commonwealth.