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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**RICHARD ALLOWAY, II**  
**SENATOR**

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**TO:** All Senators  
**FROM:** Senator Richard Alloway II  
**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship Memo – Pennsylvania's 150<sup>th</sup>  
**DATE:** April 5, 2011

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that would commemorate April 12, 2011, as the official beginning of Pennsylvania's Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration.

The American Civil War is recognized as one of the defining moments in American History. Pennsylvania occupied a pivotal location on the Mason Dixon line that further assed to its role as the "Keystone State." Pennsylvania volunteers were among the "First Defenders" to respond to the call for troops to defend the capital of the United States in April 1861. On April 12, 1861, a bill titled *An Act for the Better Organization of the Militia of the Commonwealth* was passed by both Houses of the General Assembly and was signed by Governor Curtin.

Over 400,000 Pennsylvanians from communities throughout the Commonwealth fought for the Union between 1861 and 1865 and approximately 8,600 African Americans from Pennsylvania volunteered as members of the United States Colored Troops, to defend their families, their homes and strike a decisive blow for freedom.

Pennsylvania's home-front efforts, rich farmland, burgeoning industries, extensive rail transportation system and unequaled medical facilities provided resources that were vital to Union victory. The largest battle of the Civil War took place at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July of 1863, and resulted in a major victory for Union forces.

The years 2011 through 2015 mark the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Civil War represents a significant opportunity for Pennsylvanians to explore their collective history including the continuing struggle for civil rights. The Pennsylvania Civil War 150, a collaboration of statewide partners, has been planning events and public programming for the four-year anniversary.

Please join me in co-sponsoring a resolution that marks April 12, 2011, as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's "official" start of Pennsylvania's Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration and encourage citizens, groups and communities throughout the Commonwealth to learn and participate in events commemorating Pennsylvania's importance in the American Civil War throughout the sesquicentennial period.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Melissa Knepper at [mknepper@pasen.gov](mailto:mknepper@pasen.gov) or by phone at 772-2929 on or before Friday, April 8, 2011.