

MEMO



MAY 16 2011

Senate of Pennsylvania

May 12, 2011

TO: ALL SENATORS

FROM: Stewart J. Greenleaf

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Greenleaf', written over the printed name.

SUBJECT: Cosponsorship – **Resolution Honoring William Penn and Hannah Callowhill Penn and endorsing construction of a Penn Memorial in Philadelphia.**

I plan to offer a resolution honoring William Penn and Hannah Callowhill Penn and endorsing the construction of a Penn Memorial at the Independence Mall National Historical Park in Philadelphia.

William Penn and Hannah Callowhill Penn made significant contributions to the foundation of the United States of America, and to the human condition with the establishment of the 1682 'Holy Experiment'. William and Hannah Penn are two of only seven people ever granted Honorary Citizenship by the Congress of the United States.

In Penn's promotion of the ideals of the new colony of Pennsylvania throughout Europe, "the American Dream" and its idealization as a melting pot was established that still impacts the world today. The 1682 *Treaty of Friendship with the Native Americans*, more widely known as the Shackamaxon Treaty, became a universal historical symbol of religious and civil liberties, and is one of the few events in American history noted for its just and fair treatment of peoples of different cultures.

William Penn was directly involved in the founding of three of the original thirteen colonies -- Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey -- which became the first three states to ratify the Constitution. William Penn initiated the first call for a 'united states' in his 1696 *A Plan for Union for the English Colonies in America*. William Penn also developed the first practical plan for world peace and a 'united nations' in 1693 - 251 years before the United Nations was established.

Hannah Callowhill Penn became the first female Governor and Proprietor in the New World, and of its largest and most prosperous colony, serving effectively for fourteen years and setting the course of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the mid- 1750's.

William Penn had a direct influence on popular national symbols, including the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, as well as the United States Constitution, which are all included in the Independence Mall National Historic Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Liberty Bell was originally a 50th Anniversary commemoration of Penn's 1701 *Charter of Privileges* - the most democratic document in the world at that time -- before transforming into its present stature as an international symbol of freedom, liberty and independence.

The Penn Memorial Foundation via The Penn Memorial Project is seeking to establish a Penn Memorial/Pavilion on Independence Mall in Philadelphia to honor the achievements of William Penn and Hannah Callowhill Penn. Such a memorial requires an act of Congress for approval and public support. This resolution not only recognizes and honors William and Hannah Penn for their impact and contributions to Pennsylvania and to the foundation of the United States of America, but also endorses the construction of a Penn Memorial in Philadelphia's Independence Mall National Historical Park. As such, a copy of the resolution would be transmitted to the President of the United States, the presiding officers of each house of Congress, each member of Congress from Pennsylvania and the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this resolution, please contact Pat Snively of my office by e-mailing her at psnively@pasen.gov.