

RONALD G. WATERS, MEMBER
191ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Ronald G. Waters

SUBJECT: Request for Co-Sponsorship

DATE: February 3, 2012

In the near future, I plan to introduce a condolence resolution honoring the life and legacy of Donald "Don" Cornelius, who died on February 1, 2012 at the age of 75. Don Cornelius as he was known to many will be remembered as a visionary who shared Black music, culture, and style through his *Soul Train* franchise.

Soul Train was inspired by the popular American Bandstand series. The show featured teenagers dancing to the latest soul and R&B music and a performance by a musical guest. Premiering on August 17, 1970, *Soul Train* aired on Saturday mornings for 37 years. The show became syndicated in 1971; Philadelphia was among the first cities to air the program. At its peak in 2005, *Soul Train* was seen in 105 cities across the nation.

In 1987, Cornelius started the *Soul Train* Music Awards. In 1995, he extended the franchise to include the Lady of Soul Awards. At the end of each episode, Cornelius signed off by wishing viewers, "love, peace, and soul." He will be greatly missed, but his legacy will be remembered forever.

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Nilda Jenkins at (717) 772-6955 or via e-mail at njenkins@pahouse.net. Thank you.