

AN ACT

1 Designating January 12, Joe Frazier's birthday, as "Joe Frazier  
2 Day."

3 WHEREAS, The son of a sharecropper, Joe Frazier became a  
4 boxer by accident; and

5 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier first went to a gym to work himself into  
6 shape, and he began fighting competitively and became one of the  
7 best amateur heavyweights in the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier won a gold medal in the 1964 Olympics;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier turned pro in 1965 and had 11 straight  
11 wins until he fought Oscar Bonavena in 1966; and

12 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier closed out the 1967 campaign with a 19-0  
13 career record; and

14 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier became World Heavyweight Champion in  
15 1968; and

16 WHEREAS, From 1968 to 1970, Joe Frazier made six defenses of  
17 his title; and

1       WHEREAS, On March 8, 1971, in the 15th round of a fight  
2 between Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali before a sellout crowd at  
3 Madison Square Garden, Frazier landed perhaps the most famous  
4 left hook in history, catching Ali on the jaw and dropping the  
5 former champ for a four-count, and at the end of 15 grueling  
6 rounds, Frazier got the nod from all three judges and left the  
7 ring as the undisputed champ; and

8       WHEREAS, The International Boxing Research Organization  
9 (IBRO) rates Joe Frazier among the ten greatest heavyweights of  
10 all time; and

11       WHEREAS, Joe Frazier carried himself with dignity and donated  
12 the vast majority of his money to charity; and

13       WHEREAS, According to ESPN, Joe Frazier's Gym, currently a  
14 converted warehouse located on North Broad Street in  
15 Philadelphia, has been placed on the list of America's 11 Most  
16 Endangered Historical Places by the National Trust for Historic  
17 Preservation.

18       The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
19 hereby enacts as follows:

20 Section 1. Joe Frazier Day.

21       In honor of the birthday of one of the greatest heavyweight  
22 boxers of all time, Joe Frazier, January 12 of each year is  
23 hereby designated as "Joe Frazier Day."

24 Section 2. Effective date.

25       This act shall take effect immediately.