

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2013 as "Meet the Blind Month"
2 in Pennsylvania; and recognizing October 15, 2013, as "White
3 Cane Safety Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) was
5 founded in 1940 to end discrimination against people who are
6 blind and to secure first-class citizenship for all blind
7 persons; and

8 WHEREAS, Today the NFB represents more than 50,000 members
9 across this nation and continues to work to secure equal rights
10 and opportunities for all individuals who are blind and visually
11 impaired; and

12 WHEREAS, The NFB and other organizations work to change
13 attitudes about blindness by providing information to parents,
14 teachers, school administrators and to business, government,
15 social and civic leaders; and

16 WHEREAS, Since blindness is still frequently misunderstood, a
17 public education campaign, "Meet the Blind Month," was developed
18 to create opportunities for people to learn firsthand that

1 individuals who are blind and visually impaired are like
2 everyone else; and

3 WHEREAS, The white cane symbolizes the ability of every blind
4 or visually impaired citizen of this Commonwealth to achieve a
5 full and independent life; and

6 WHEREAS, The white cane allows every blind or visually
7 impaired person to move freely and safely from place to place
8 and without it such travel would be difficult and dangerous; and

9 WHEREAS, The white cane serves as a tangible reminder that
10 those who are blind or visually impaired are self-sufficient,
11 mobile and capable of participating in the life of their
12 communities and contributing to the success of our society; and

13 WHEREAS, In the first white cane proclamation issued in 1964,
14 President Lyndon B. Johnson commended blind and visually
15 impaired individuals for their growing spirit of independence
16 and their increased determination to be self-reliant and
17 dignified; and

18 WHEREAS, President Johnson also said that in our society the
19 white cane has become a unique symbol of a blind or visually
20 impaired person's ability to come and go independently and its
21 use has promoted courtesy and opportunity for mobility of people
22 who are blind on our streets and highways; and

23 WHEREAS, The white cane reminds us that when approaching a
24 blind or visually impaired person, we should always exercise
25 appropriate caution, especially if operating an automobile;
26 therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the National Federation of the Blind (NFB),
28 the Lions Club International and other organizations promote
29 events such as "Meet the Blind Month" for October and the
30 National and International "White Cane Safety Day" on October 15

1 to promote understanding of blindness and to learn more about
2 those who are blind and visually impaired and the efforts they
3 make to lead full and active lives; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
5 month of October 2013 as "Meet the Blind Month" in Pennsylvania,
6 and October 15, 2013, as "White Cane Safety Day" in
7 Pennsylvania, urge residents and communities in this
8 Commonwealth to participate in organized events and thank the
9 NFB, the Lions Club International and other organizations
10 involved in the observances for their efforts to promote
11 understanding of issues involving blindness and the people in
12 this Commonwealth who are blind and visually impaired and their
13 efforts to achieve their aspirations, hopes and full abilities
14 in society.

