

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED _____, 20_____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

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See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Referred to Committee on	
Date _____	20 _____
Reported _____	20 _____
As Committed-Amended	
Recommendation	

By Hon. _____	

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the historical significance of Camp Curtin and
2 commending the Camp Curtin Historical Society for its
3 dedication.

4 WHEREAS, When news of the bombardment and surrender of Fort
5 Sumter reached Washington on April 14, 1861, President Abraham
6 Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers; and

7 WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Curtin also made a plea to the
8 residents of Pennsylvania to volunteer to help preserve the
9 Union and almost immediately, men from throughout this
10 Commonwealth converged on Harrisburg to offer their services;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Governor Curtin instructed Brigadier General Edward
13 Williams of the State Militia to take control of the grounds of
14 the Dauphin County Agricultural Society, located in what was
15 then the northern outskirts of Harrisburg, to establish a
16 military camp; and

17 WHEREAS, The camp was originally going to be named Camp Union
18 but when Major, later Brigadier General, Joseph Knipe officially

1 opened the camp on April 18th, he proclaimed it to be Camp
2 Curtin; and

3 WHEREAS, Over 300,000 men passed through Camp Curtin, making
4 it the largest Federal camp during the Civil War, with troops
5 from Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio,
6 Wisconsin and the regular army using the camp; and

7 WHEREAS, Harrisburg's strategic importance as a state
8 capital, military camp and railroad center was made evident by
9 the Confederacy's attempts to take the city during the Antietam
10 and Gettysburg campaigns; and

11 WHEREAS, At the end of the war, Camp Curtin was used as a
12 mustering-out point for thousands of troops on their way home,
13 and the camp was officially closed on November 11, 1865, the
14 same date that became Veterans Day after World War I; and

15 WHEREAS, For years, residents of the area and Civil War
16 veterans wanted a gateway built at Sixth and Maclay Streets to
17 mark the entrance to Camp Curtin; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1917, the Camp Curtin Commission was created, and
19 a total of \$25,000 was appropriated in 1917 and 1919 to the
20 commission to purchase the site occupied by Camp Curtin and to
21 erect a suitable memorial; and

22 WHEREAS, On October 19, 1922, the Governor Andrew G. Curtin
23 statue was unveiled by his son, William W. Curtin, and Laura and
24 Helen Gastrock, great-granddaughters of General Joseph F. Knipe;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, After years of neglect, the statue was restored and
27 rededicated by the Camp Curtin Historical Society on November
28 11, 1990, the 125th anniversary of the closing of Camp Curtin;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, In 1992, a State roadside historical marker was

1 dedicated during ceremonies celebrating the 131st anniversary of
2 the opening of Camp Curtin, and in 1993, lighting was installed
3 to illuminate the statue through the efforts of the Camp Curtin
4 Historical Society; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
6 historical significance of Camp Curtin and commend the Camp
7 Curtin Historical Society for its dedication.