

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 450 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, BISHOP, SCHLOSSBERG, MURT, KINSEY, SCHREIBER, ROZZI, J. HARRIS, BOYLE, LONGIETTI, KIRKLAND, McCARTER, SAINATO, YOUNGBLOOD, GIBBONS, WATSON, PASHINSKI, DAVIS, WARD, DRISCOLL, DONATUCCI, READSHAW, D. MILLER, KIM AND DiGIROLAMO, AUGUST 21, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, AUGUST 21, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing condolences upon the passing of H. Julian Bond, civil
 2 rights leader, political activist, legislator and educator,
 3 and honoring his life and contributions to this nation and
 4 the African-American community.

5 WHEREAS, Horace Julian Bond died due to health complications
 6 August 15, 2015, in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, at 75 years of
 7 age; and

8 WHEREAS, Born January 14, 1940, to Horace Mann Bond and Julia
 9 Agnes Washington in Nashville, Tennessee, Mr. Bond would later
 10 relocate to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania following his
 11 father's installation as first African-American president of
 12 Lincoln University; and

13 WHEREAS, Committed to academic excellence, Mr. Bond graduated
 14 from George School, a Quaker preparatory institution in Bucks
 15 County, and subsequently attended Morehouse College in Atlanta,
 16 Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, During his time as a student at Morehouse College,

1 Mr. Bond not only exhibited extraordinary academic prowess, but
2 he also served as one of the original leaders and founders of
3 the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); and

4 WHEREAS, SNCC was founded as a grassroots organization
5 engendering social and political equity through the utilization
6 of nonviolent resistance tactics such as sit-ins and peaceful
7 demonstrations; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1971, as Mr. Bond's political activism grew, he
9 and civil rights attorneys Morris Dees and Joseph Levin, Jr.,
10 saw the existential necessity of founding the Southern Poverty
11 Law Center to champion civil rights and equal treatment under
12 the law for poor and minority citizens throughout the South; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Bond's strong convictions and advocacy oriented
14 him toward public office, where he sought to address many of the
15 systemic and intrinsic inequities of the political system; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1965, Mr. Bond ran for and successfully won the
17 136th District seat in the House of Representatives of the State
18 of Georgia in a milestone election which integrated the House
19 for the first time since Reconstruction; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Bond's political victory was not without
21 controversy, as legislators immediately confronted him with
22 racism and discrimination, voting to remove him from his seat
23 due to his publicly expressed opposition to the Vietnam War; and

24 WHEREAS, The issue of Mr. Bond's removal from the Georgia
25 House of Representatives would go before the United States
26 Supreme Court, which determined in 1966 that his fellow
27 legislators had violated his First Amendment rights; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Bond had a very successful and meaningful
29 political life within the Georgia General Assembly, amassing
30 four terms in the House of Representatives and six terms in the

1 Senate; and

2 WHEREAS, Over the course of his illustrious political career,
3 Mr. Bond achieved many milestones, but none more significant
4 than becoming the first African American to be nominated as a
5 candidate for Vice President of the United States during the
6 1968 presidential election; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Bond withdrew his name from the ballot since he
8 was too young to serve, being seven years younger than the
9 minimum age requirement under the Constitution of the United
10 States; and

11 WHEREAS, After a long career in public service, Mr. Bond
12 indelibly directed his leadership and energies toward social
13 justice; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Bond chaired the National Association for the
15 Advancement of Colored People from 1998 through 2009; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Bond's influence and brilliance continued to
17 manifest itself in many ways, including his literary
18 contributions as a writer and poet and his work as a television
19 commentator and college professor; and

20 WHEREAS, Even during the last years of his life, Mr. Bond
21 utilized his voice for the greater good of disadvantaged,
22 disenfranchised and marginalized persons in our society; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Bond uniquely influenced or mentored virtually
24 all of our nation's contemporary political and civil rights
25 activists; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
27 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania mourn the death of H. Julian Bond
28 and extend its most sincere condolences to his family, including
29 his wife Pamela Horowitz, his sons Horace Mann Bond II, Michael
30 Julian Bond and Jeffrey Alvin Bond, and his daughters Phyllis

1 Jane Bond-McMillan and Julia "Cookie" Louise Bond; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
4 the Bond family as an expression of sorrow for their loss and
5 reverence for Mr. Bond's notable civil rights advocacy and
6 public service.