
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 30

Session of
1993

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, DONATUCCI, OLIVER, JOSEPHS, ACOSTA,
JAMES, FICHTER, THOMAS, KING, NYCE, NAILOR, CURRY, WOZNIAK,
FLICK, ROBERTS, GERLACH, RICHARDSON, PETTIT, LAUB, RUBLEY,
STEIL, ROHRER, STRITTMATTER, HENNESSEY, KELLER, EGOLF,
SANTONI, SATHER, STERN AND BAKER, FEBRUARY 10, 1993

ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 10, 1993

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr., as a leader among champions
2 and honoring his lifetime achievements in sports, public
3 service and his profound devotion to God, country and family.

4 WHEREAS, Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr., who lived always with
5 dignity, always with integrity, passed away on February 6, 1993;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Arthur Ashe, Jr. lived a full and rich life,
8 fulfilling several personal goals as a professional tennis
9 player, sports consultant, businessman, human rights activist,
10 author, husband and father; and

11 WHEREAS, Arthur Ashe, Jr. left a legacy of achievements in
12 the sports world, which include the honor of being the first
13 African American in the history of tennis to become champion at
14 Wimbledon in 1975 and the first African American to become the
15 U.S. Open champion in 1975 at Forrest Hills; and

16 WHEREAS, His list of tennis milestones also include
17 championships at the Australian Open, Melbourne 1970; doubles

1 (with Marty Riessen), French Open, Paris, 1971; U.S. Clay Court
2 Championships, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1967; and the U.S.
3 Hardcourt Championships at La Jolla, California in 1963. He was
4 also inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame, the Virginia Sports
5 Hall of Fame, the Eastern Tennis Association Hall of Fame and
6 the Westchester, New York Hall of Fame; and

7 WHEREAS, Arthur Ashe, Jr. was not only a champion on the
8 tennis court but also a champion of many worthy causes. He
9 personified what he called the colored catechism that holds that
10 every time is a time of need and that those to whom much has
11 been given will be called to share and ameliorate; and

12 WHEREAS, He saw sports as a way to "chip away at injustice"
13 in such places as South Africa where Apartheid divides a nation
14 and believed that "small concessions incline towards larger
15 ones"; and

16 WHEREAS, Among his many charges was a noble and deep
17 commitment to increase the world community's understanding of
18 AIDS and fight for a cure. It is perhaps the saddest of ironies
19 that he should contract the disease after two bypass operations
20 as a result of contaminated blood; and

21 WHEREAS, Arthur Ashe was more than a champion of great
22 causes. He was also an author of a tennis diary, Portrait in
23 Motion (1974), an autobiography, Off the Court (1983) and the
24 winner of an Emmy award for the television docudrama "A Hard
25 Road to Glory" based on his book of the same name; and

26 WHEREAS, Arthur Ashe was more than an Emmy award-winning
27 producer and noted writer; he was also a devoted husband to his
28 wife Jeanne and father to his daughter, Camera. This man,
29 trained by church and family "to be summoned" to a higher
30 calling, is for us who are left behind the true embodiment of

1 greatness and grace; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize Arthur
3 Ashe, Jr. as a leader among champions and honor his lifetime
4 achievements; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
6 the President of the United States, the Governor, to the
7 presiding officers of each house of Congress, to each member of
8 Congress from Pennsylvania and to Arthur Ashe's family.