

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 245 Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY BUXTON, MARSICO, McNAUGHTON AND TULLI,
SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 29, 1997, as "J. Horace McFarland Day" and
2 promoting public recognition of his accomplishments in
3 environmental protection, the study of horticulture, the
4 development of printing processes and the advancement of
5 civic projects that improved the quality of life for citizens
6 in Pennsylvania, the United States and internationally.

7 WHEREAS, J. Horace McFarland was born in McAlisterville,
8 Juniata County, September 29, 1859, and became a resident of the
9 City of Harrisburg, Dauphin County; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. McFarland became a successful businessperson by
11 founding the J. Horace McFarland Press and was a community
12 leader in Harrisburg in the early 1900s; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. McFarland was the driving force behind bringing
14 modern improvements to Harrisburg, including developing the City
15 Island water filtration plant, a public sewage system,
16 Riverfront Park and Wildwood Lake Park, paving streets and
17 building flood control projects, and he served as the secretary
18 of the Municipal League of Harrisburg from 1901 to 1946; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. McFarland took his "Harrisburg Plan" for

1 promoting civic improvements through education of the public
2 about the benefits of open space, recreation areas and good
3 public facilities to communities across the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, The "Harrisburg Plan" and similar civic improvement
5 efforts developed into the nationwide "City Beautiful" movement
6 and led to the establishment of the American Civic Association
7 with Mr. McFarland as the first president in 1904 and with
8 Harrisburg serving as its first headquarters; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. McFarland fought for the establishment of the
10 National Park Service in 1916 and worked hand-in-hand with
11 Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, and
12 naturalist John Burroughs on the preservation of Yosemite and
13 Yellowstone parks, Niagara Falls, the Everglades and many other
14 natural and scenic areas across the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. McFarland served as an active member of the
16 United States Department of the Interior's Educational Advisory
17 Board for parks and as a member of the National Park Trust Fund
18 until his death in 1948; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. McFarland's interest in horticulture and the
20 raising of roses led in 1915 to the unprecedented growth of the
21 American Rose Society, which had an international impact on the
22 propagation of roses and was headquartered in Harrisburg for many
23 years; and

24 WHEREAS, The Greater Harrisburg Rose Society, also organized
25 by Mr. McFarland, is this year celebrating its 50th anniversary;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. McFarland was a worldwide influence and
28 innovator in the photomechanical processes of color printing;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

1 and author Ernest Morrison are being commended by the American
2 Association for State and Local History for a 1995 biography of
3 Mr. McFarland entitled J. Horace McFarland: A Thorn for Beauty;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the United
6 States Department of the Interior, called J. Horace McFarland an
7 "almost forgotten hero" of the "City Beautiful" and preservation
8 movements; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
10 September 29, 1997, as "J. Horace McFarland Day" to call public
11 attention to the contributions J. Horace McFarland made to
12 protecting the environment, the study of horticulture and to
13 promoting civic projects that improved the standard and quality
14 of life for citizens in Pennsylvania and throughout the United
15 States.