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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 213      Session of  
1999

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INTRODUCED BY BAKER, FICHTER, ARGALL, ARMSTRONG, BARD, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, CAPPABIANCA, CLARK, L. I. COHEN, CORRIGAN, DALEY, DALLY, DeLUCA, DEMPSEY, DONATUCCI, FAIRCHILD, FARGO, FEESE, FORCIER, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEIST, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, HARHAI, HARHART, HASAY, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, HORSEY, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, LESCOVITZ, LUCYK, MAJOR, MANDERINO, McNAUGHTON, MELIO, R. MILLER, PHILLIPS, PIPPY, READSHAW, ROBERTS, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCHRODER, SCHULER, SERAFINI, SHANER, B. SMITH, STABACK, SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD AND ZUG,  
JUNE 15, 1999

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 15, 1999

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Governor to proclaim the festival held  
2 annually during the month of June in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania,  
3 as the "Pennsylvania State Laurel Festival."

4 WHEREAS, The first Laurel Festival was held in Wellsboro in  
5 1938 and was the brainchild of Larry Woodin, a businessman so  
6 impressed with the Pine Creek Gorge located ten miles south of  
7 Wellsboro that he persuaded the Chamber of Commerce to publicize  
8 the gorge as a natural wonder of Tioga County; and

9 WHEREAS, As a result of these efforts, visitors came to see  
10 the breathtaking 50-mile gorge, now known as the "Grand Canyon  
11 of the East" or the "Pennsylvania Grand Canyon"; and

12 WHEREAS, Originally organized by the Lions Club, the first  
13 festival was held to promote not only the Grand Canyon but also

1 the State flower - the mountain laurel. Events included a  
2 parade, circus, block dance, ball and the crowning of the first  
3 Laurel Queen; and

4 WHEREAS, The Festival, now sponsored by the Chamber of  
5 Commerce, is organized by a committee of devoted volunteers and  
6 attracts between 30,000 and 35,000 people; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the years the Festival has undergone many  
8 changes. In 1950 the title officially became the "Pennsylvania  
9 State Laurel Festival" to indicate the representation of the  
10 many towns from throughout this Commonwealth. Various events  
11 have been added, including the Pet Parade, the Laurel Princess  
12 Program, the Arts and Crafts Fair, the Laurel Concert Series, a  
13 10k foot race and the Laurel Classic Bicycle Race; and

14 WHEREAS, Festival visitors not only enjoy the fun of the  
15 Festival but also the unspoiled forest land abloom with laurel,  
16 majestic mountains and clear streams in the area; therefore be  
17 it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives memorialize the  
19 Governor to proclaim the festival held annually during the month  
20 of June in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, as the "Pennsylvania State  
21 Laurel Festival."