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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 757 Session of  
2006

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INTRODUCED BY S. H. SMITH, READSHAW, HUTCHINSON, ALLEN, ARGALL, ARMSTRONG, BAKER, BALDWIN, BARRAR, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BEYER, BUNT, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CIVERA, PHILLIPS, CLYMER, COHEN, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DENLINGER, DERMODY, DeWEESE, FABRIZIO, GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, HARHART, HARRIS, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, M. KELLER, LEDERER, LEH, MAHER, MAITLAND, MAJOR, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, MILLARD, MUSTIO, PALLONE, PAYNE, QUIGLEY, PISTELLA, PYLE, RAMALEY, REICHLEY, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAYLOR, SEMMEL, SHANER, SIPTROTH, B. SMITH, STABACK, STERN, R. STEVENSON, SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, TURZAI, WALKO, WANSACZ, WATSON, WILT, WOJNAROSKI AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 15, 2006

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, MAY 15, 2006

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Secretary of the Interior to consider a  
2 change to the National Park Service policy that prohibits  
3 changes to words, phrases, facts or spellings on historic  
4 monuments, specifically the Pennsylvania Memorial at  
5 Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

6 WHEREAS, The National Park Service has cared for Gettysburg  
7 National Military Park since 1933 as a symbol of America's  
8 struggle to survive as a nation and as a lasting memorial to the  
9 armies and soldiers who served in that great conflict; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Park Service has determined that the  
11 monuments are historic in their own right because they were left  
12 behind by those who fought there and that today we do not have  
13 the connection, the insight or the personal judgment of the  
14 veterans who placed them on the battlefield; and

1       WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Memorial is one of more than 1,300  
2 monuments, memorials and markers in Gettysburg National Military  
3 Park, the vast majority of which were placed on the battlefield  
4 by the battle veterans themselves; and

5       WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Memorial, constructed by the  
6 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1909-1910, is adorned with  
7 bronze plaques around its base that list the Pennsylvania  
8 regiments and batteries that participated in the Battle of  
9 Gettysburg, along with a list of the Pennsylvanians in each unit  
10 who were present during the three-day battle; and

11       WHEREAS, This project presented the monument commission with  
12 special problems as the records and muster rolls were still in  
13 the possession of the War Department and they encountered  
14 numerous spelling and statistical difficulties; and

15       WHEREAS, Due to the difficulties encountered by the monument  
16 commission, corrections were made to the tablets after the  
17 dedication of the monument on September 27, 1910; and

18       WHEREAS, Since the tablets on the Pennsylvania Memorial were  
19 changed following its dedication, it is disingenuous to claim  
20 that providing for some methodology for the addition of names or  
21 other information to the monument would diminish its historic  
22 character; therefore be it

23       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
24 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Secretary of  
25 the Interior to consider a change to the National Park Service  
26 policy that prohibits changes to words, phrases, facts or  
27 spellings on historic monuments to allow in some manner for the  
28 addition of verified names or information to the Pennsylvania  
29 Memorial at Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg,  
30 Pennsylvania; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
2 the President of the United States, to the Secretary of the  
3 Interior, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W.,  
4 Washington DC 20240, to the presiding officers of each house of  
5 Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.