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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 414 Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY BELFANTI, SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the players and coaches of the 1950 Coal Township High  
2 School Purple Demons football team and commemorating their  
3 undefeated season and victory in the Eastern Conference  
4 Championship game.

5 WHEREAS, The success of Coal Township's 1950 football season  
6 hinged on the dedication and talents of 35 squad members, Head  
7 Coach Walter Marshall and Assistant Coaches Bernie Romanoski, Ed  
8 Sutt and Roy Sanders; and

9 WHEREAS, The inspiring coaching style of Walter Marshall and  
10 his dedication to the gridiron propelled the team to its first  
11 ever undefeated season for Coal Township; and

12 WHEREAS, Led by 11 lettermen and senior tri-captains John  
13 Gurski, Tom Kiefaber and John Zupicich, the Purple Demons began  
14 the 1950 season in the "Silver Bowl" game against the Mount  
15 Carmel Catholic Red Tornadoes, a team which had been undefeated  
16 for several seasons; and

17 WHEREAS, 8,318 fans crowded the stadium on opening game day,  
18 during which Purple Demon players scored five touchdowns,

1 including a returned 58-yard interception by Sam Rumberger,  
2 defeating the Red Tornados 33-14; and

3 WHEREAS, The Purple Demons offered fans season highlights of  
4 four shut-out games and victories balanced on the stout arm of  
5 quarterback Les Schlegel, the disciplined, airtight offense and  
6 a stingy, punishing defense; and

7 WHEREAS, After a breezy win over Kulpmont High School and a  
8 tie game against Dunmore, the Purple Demons clinched first place  
9 in the Southern Division of the Eastern Conference; and

10 WHEREAS, The team relied on the cheers of staunch supporters  
11 at home field, at away games and at the Eastern Conference  
12 Championship, which drew more than 7,000 dedicated fans despite  
13 inclement weather; and

14 WHEREAS, The Purple Demons met the Swoyersville Sailors in  
15 the 1950 Eastern Conference Championship game, which ignited a  
16 decade-long rivalry between the schools; and

17 WHEREAS, Despite heavy rain, a mud-soaked field and an early  
18 seven-point lead by the Sailors, the Purple Demons rallied to  
19 tie the game before the half and dominated the remainder of the  
20 game, scoring three more times and winning the championship; and

21 WHEREAS, The Coal Township High School football team won the  
22 Eastern Conference title 26-13 and finished the season with a  
23 record of 11-0-1; and

24 WHEREAS, Although Coal Township High School merged with the  
25 Shamokin Area School District in 1964, residents throughout the  
26 anthracite region fondly remember its history and football  
27 rivalries; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the players  
29 and coaches of the 1950 Coal Township High School Purple Demons  
30 football team and commemorate its winning season and victory in

1 the Eastern Conference Championship game.