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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 469 Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BISHOP, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CONKLIN, DIGIROLAMO, D. EVANS, GALLOWAY, GEORGE, GIBBONS, HESS, JOSEPHS, KULA, MANN, MANTZ, McILHATTAN, MILLARD, MILNE, MOYER, MUNDY, MURT, MUSTIO, MYERS, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, PETRI, PETRONE, PHILLIPS, RAMALEY, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SHIMKUS, M. SMITH, SURRA, SWANGER, TANGRETTI, VULAKOVICH, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI AND YOUNGBLOOD, OCTOBER 22, 2007

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 22, 2007

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the Rodef Shalom Congregation located in Pittsburgh,  
2 Pennsylvania, in celebration of their Sesquicentennial  
3 Shabbat on October 26, 2007.

4 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives is proud to recognize  
5 and celebrate important milestones of organizations who  
6 contribute to the well-being of the people of this Commonwealth;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The Rodef Shalom Congregation, or Pursuers of Peace,  
9 was chartered on November 9, 1856, in Pittsburgh, to further the  
10 cause of religion and the establishment of a good school in  
11 which children could be instructed in the principles of Judaism  
12 as well as general education; and

13 WHEREAS, The Rodef Shalom Congregation's first temple was  
14 located on Hancock Street, now Eighth Street, in Pittsburgh on  
15 March 20, 1862, until the temple proved too small for the

1 growing congregation; and

2 WHEREAS, The Rodef Shalom Congregation's current temple was  
3 built in 1907 in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh by Henry  
4 Hornbostel, merging tradition and the congregation's modern  
5 approach to Judaism; and

6 WHEREAS, The Rodef Shalom Temple is a Pittsburgh historic  
7 landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places of  
8 the United States Department of the Interior; and

9 WHEREAS, The Rodef Shalom Congregation originally followed  
10 Orthodox teachings, but voted in 1863 to become affiliated with  
11 Reform Judaism; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1885, the Rodef Shalom Congregation hosted an  
13 important meeting of Reform rabbis in Pittsburgh, resulting in  
14 the "Pittsburgh Platform," which guided North American Reform  
15 Judaism until 1937; and

16 WHEREAS, The Rodef Shalom Congregation has been in the  
17 forefront of liberal Judaism and has been a leader in promoting  
18 social justice and interfaith relations; and

19 WHEREAS, The Rodef Shalom Congregation has housed a series of  
20 scholarly rabbis who have held leadership positions in Reform  
21 Judaism and their congregants, currently under the guidance of  
22 Senior Rabbi Aaron Bisno, have contributed significantly to the  
23 Pittsburgh community; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the Rodef  
25 Shalom Congregation on their Sesquicentennial Shabbat on October  
26 26, 2007; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
28 the Rodef Shalom Congregation, 4905 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA  
29 15213.