

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 391 Session of  
2008

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INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, PIPPY, COSTA, LOGAN, LAVALLE, FERLO,  
ORIE, STOUT, BOSCOLA, WASHINGTON, A. WILLIAMS, DINNIMAN,  
ERICKSON, FUMO, PUNT, RAFFERTY, TARTAGLIONE, C. WILLIAMS,  
KASUNIC, O'PAKE, STACK, WONDERLING, REGOLA, EARLL AND  
PILEGGI, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating September 24, 2008, as the 220th anniversary of  
2 the formation of Allegheny County.

3 WHEREAS, Allegheny County was formed on September 24, 1788,  
4 from parts of Washington and Westmoreland Counties after  
5 settlers living around Pittsburgh lobbied the Commonwealth to  
6 create a new county; and

7 WHEREAS, Allegheny County's borders originally extended north  
8 to Lake Erie, with its current borders established by 1800; and

9 WHEREAS, Allegheny County, named for the Allegheny River, was  
10 the first county in Pennsylvania to be given a Native American  
11 name, and the word "allegheny" is of Lenape origin, with  
12 uncertain meaning; and

13 WHEREAS, It is usually said to mean "fine river," but  
14 sometimes said to refer to an ancient mythical tribe called  
15 "Allegewi" who lived along the river long ago before being wiped  
16 out by the Lenape; and

1 WHEREAS, In the late 1700s, farming played a critical role in  
2 the growth of the area; and

3 WHEREAS, There was a surplus of grain due to transportation  
4 difficulties in linking with the eastern portion of the State  
5 and as a result, the farmers distilled the grain into whiskey,  
6 which significantly helped the farmers financially; and

7 WHEREAS, The area quickly became one of the key manufacturing  
8 areas in the young nation, with Pittsburgh becoming the largest  
9 inland port in the nation, which it remains today; and

10 WHEREAS, Allegheny County is the second largest county in the  
11 State with a population of approximately 1.3 million people and  
12 is a home rule government with a chief executive and 15-member  
13 council, containing 130 municipalities and 42 school districts;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Once known as one of the most important steel  
16 producing areas in the world, Allegheny County is now recognized  
17 for its hospitals, universities and industrial centers; and

18 WHEREAS, The county is home to a number of major companies  
19 and is ranked in the top ten among United States cities hosting  
20 headquarters of Fortune 500 corporations, United States Steel  
21 Corporation, PNC Financial Services Group, PPG Industries and  
22 H.J. Heinz Company; and

23 WHEREAS, Allegheny County is the birthplace of a number of  
24 notable individuals, including James Mitchell Ashley, a member  
25 of Congress, a railroad president and a Montana territory  
26 governor; Jimmy Beaumont, the lead singer of the Skyliners;  
27 James Bowman, a noted portrait artist; Andrew Carnegie, an  
28 industrialist and philanthropist; Rachel Carson, an author and  
29 ecologist; Mary Cassatt, an innovative painter, printmaker and  
30 etcher; Stephen Collins Foster, a preeminent songwriter of the

1 19th century; Michael Keaton, an actor; Catherine Baker Knoll,  
2 the Commonwealth's first female Lieutenant Governor; Dan Marino,  
3 an NFL football player; Ethelbert Nevin, a pianist and composer;  
4 George Romero, a director; Honus Wagner, a Baseball Hall of Fame  
5 member; Andy Warhol, an influential artist of the 20th century;  
6 John Edgar Wideman, a novelist; and August Wilson, a playwright;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Allegheny County has been home to a number of firsts  
9 in the nation as well, including the first cable suspension  
10 bridge, the first commercial radio station, the first Ice  
11 Capades show, development of the first injectable polio vaccine,  
12 the first and only academic institution in which to earn a Ph.D.  
13 in robotics, the first bingo game, the first motion picture  
14 theater, the first World Series, the first heart-kidney-liver  
15 transplant, the first Federal hospital, the first continuous  
16 roll printing press and the first all-minority starting lineup  
17 in baseball; and

18 WHEREAS, Allegheny County's celebration of the 220th  
19 anniversary of its formation is a way to honor its rich history  
20 of "firsts," its notable "sons and daughters," its key  
21 industries and to celebrate its bright future; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate commemorate September 24, 2008, as  
23 the 220th anniversary of the formation of Allegheny County in  
24 recognition of the vital role it has played, and continues to  
25 play, in the history and success of this Commonwealth and  
26 nation.