

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 195 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY CLYMER, READSHAW, AUMENT, BAKER, BOBACK, BOYD, CAUSER, CUTLER, DIGIROLAMO, FABRIZIO, GABLER, GEORGE, GODSHALL, GRELL, HAHN, HARHART, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MATZIE, MILLARD, MOUL, O'NEILL, PAYNE, QUIGLEY, QUINN, RAPP, REICHLEY, SAINATO, SAMUELSON, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, COHEN AND HESS, APRIL 8, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 8, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 12, 2011, as the official beginning of
2 Pennsylvania's Civil War 150th Commemoration.

3 WHEREAS, The American Civil War is recognized as one of the
4 defining moments in American history; and

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania occupied a pivotal location on the
6 Mason-Dixon Line that further added to its role as the Keystone
7 State; and

8 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania volunteers were among the First
9 Defenders to respond to the call for troops to defend the
10 capital of the United States in April 1861; and

11 WHEREAS, On April 12, 1861, a bill titled "An Act for the
12 better organization of the Militia of the Commonwealth" was
13 passed by both chambers of the General Assembly and was signed
14 by Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin; and

15 WHEREAS, More than 400,000 Pennsylvanians from communities

1 throughout this Commonwealth fought for the Union between 1861
2 and 1865; and

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 8,600 African Americans from
4 Pennsylvania volunteered as members of the United States Colored
5 Troops to defend their families, their homes and strike a
6 decisive blow for freedom; and

7 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's home-front efforts, rich farmland,
8 burgeoning industries, extensive rail transportation system and
9 unequalled medical facilities provided resources that were vital
10 to the Union victory; and

11 WHEREAS, The largest battle of the Civil War took place at
12 Gettysburg in July 1863 and resulted in a major victory for
13 Union forces; and

14 WHEREAS, The years 2011 through 2015 mark the
15 sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, and the 150th
16 anniversary of the American Civil War represents a significant
17 opportunity for Pennsylvanians to explore their collective
18 history, including the continuing struggle for civil rights; and

19 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Civil War 150, a collaboration of
20 Statewide partners, has been planning events and public
21 programming for the four-year anniversary; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That April 12, 2011, mark the official start of
23 Pennsylvania's Civil War 150th Commemoration; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage
25 citizens, groups and communities throughout this Commonwealth to
26 learn about and participate in events commemorating
27 Pennsylvania's importance in the American Civil War throughout
28 the sesquicentennial period.