

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 215 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY CURRY, BAKER, BISHOP, K. BOYLE, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, COHEN, D. COSTA, CUTLER, DAVIS, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FLECK, FREEMAN, GABLER, GEIST, GIBBONS, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRELL, GROVE, HARHAI, HARHART, HARKINS, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, JOHNSON, KAUFFMAN, W. KELLER, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARSICO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MIRABITO, MOUL, MULLERY, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PARKER, PAYNE, PAYTON, PICKETT, QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SAMUELSON, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SONNEY, STABACK, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, VITALI, VULAKOVICH, WAGNER, WATSON, WHEATLEY AND GOODMAN, APRIL 13, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 13, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 10 through 16, 2011, as "National
2 Library Week" and April 12, 2011, as "National Library
3 Workers Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The American Library Association (ALA) annually
5 designates a week in April as a national observance to celebrate
6 the contributions of this nation's libraries to their
7 communities and to promote library use and support; and

8 WHEREAS, The ALA also celebrates and recognizes the unique
9 contributions of librarians and library support staff of the
10 American Library Association-Allied Professional Association
11 (ALA-APA), acknowledging the expert assistance they provide both
12 in person and online to library patrons; and

1 WHEREAS, America's libraries are vital institutions and
2 dynamic centers of lifelong learning which play a unique role in
3 ensuring the public's right to know and empowering people from
4 all walks of life to make informed decisions about the world
5 around them; and

6 WHEREAS, Libraries have the most recent ideas and information
7 available on subjects and are a cost-effective means of
8 providing education, training and the opportunity for self-
9 improvement to all individuals without regard to age, race,
10 income or socioeconomic background; and

11 WHEREAS, Americans are visiting their local public libraries
12 more often and checking out items with greater frequency in
13 communities large and small; and

14 WHEREAS, Nationally, the average cost to the taxpayer for
15 access to this wide range of public library resources is \$31 a
16 year, about the cost of one hardcover book, making public
17 libraries a bargain; and

18 WHEREAS, Libraries help communities thrive in challenging
19 economic times as patrons are turning to library computers and
20 Internet access to find work, apply for jobs online, type
21 resumes and cover letters and open e-mail accounts; and

22 WHEREAS, It has been documented that library usage increases
23 in the wake of a recession, however, at the same time, tight
24 State and city budgets are closing library doors and reducing
25 access when it is needed most; and

26 WHEREAS, Nearly 73% of libraries are their communities' only
27 source of free computer and Internet access, with this number
28 rising to 82% in rural areas; and

29 WHEREAS, Librarians and other library workers are trained
30 professionals, helping people of all ages and backgrounds find

1 and interpret the information they need to live, learn and work
2 in the 21st century; and

3 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the unique
4 contributions of all library workers and the value to
5 individuals and society of those contributions, when the demand
6 for libraries' resources and services is at an all-time high;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, A steady stream of highly trained recruits to
9 library work is necessary to maintain the vitality of library
10 services in today's information society; and

11 WHEREAS, America's libraries play a key role in the national
12 discourse on intellectual freedom, equity of access and
13 narrowing the digital divide, and our librarians and library
14 support staff play a vital role in supporting the quality of
15 life in their communities; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
17 week of April 10 through 16, 2011, as "National Library Week"
18 and April 12, 2011, as "National Library Workers Day" in
19 Pennsylvania, and encourage all citizens of this Commonwealth to
20 visit their local library and explore the wide variety of
21 cultural and educational riches that libraries hold; and be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
24 the National Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago,
25 IL 60611.