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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 350 Session of  
2011

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INTRODUCED BY PAYTON, JUNE 22, 2011

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE  
22, 2011

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Bernard Hopkins for his achievements  
2 and contributions to the sport of boxing and the City of  
3 Philadelphia.

4 WHEREAS, Bernard Hopkins was born January 15, 1965, and was  
5 raised in the Germantown section of Philadelphia; and

6 WHEREAS, As a misguided and pugnacious youth, Mr. Hopkins  
7 improperly channeled his aggression and regrettably found  
8 himself embroiled in a life of crime and gang activity; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1982, 17-year-old Bernard's lifestyle of violence  
10 and destruction eventually caught up with him, resulting in a  
11 conviction and sentence of 18 years for assault and armed  
12 robbery; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins was sent and housed at the Graterford  
14 State Penitentiary, where he quickly realized the errors of his  
15 ways and adopted a more positive outlook on life; and

16 WHEREAS, During his incarceration, Mr. Hopkins cultivated a  
17 new and improved mental and spiritual foundation, and more  
18 importantly discovered his passion for the sport of boxing; and

1       WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins wisely utilized his time while  
2 incarcerated to hone his boxing skills in preparation to pursue  
3 a professional career in the sport upon his release; and

4       WHEREAS, In 1988, after 56 months of confinement, Mr. Hopkins  
5 was released from prison at the age of 23; and

6       WHEREAS, Staying true to his ambition, Mr. Hopkins officially  
7 turned professional as a light-heavyweight soon after his  
8 release, but lost his first professional bout to Clinton  
9 Mitchell on October 11, 1988; and

10       WHEREAS, On February 22, 1990, Mr. Hopkins scored his first  
11 professional win against Greg Paige in a four-round decision,  
12 crediting his Spartan-like work ethic to his new trainer, Bouie  
13 Fisher, who played a pivotal role in the shaping of his  
14 illustrious career; and

15       WHEREAS, During the period between 1990 through 1992, Mr.  
16 Hopkins, under the tutelage of trainer Bouie Fisher, worked his  
17 way through the middleweight journeyman ranks and scored a  
18 remarkable 19 consecutive victories; and

19       WHEREAS, On December 4, 1992, Mr. Hopkins earned an  
20 opportunity to contend for the United States Boxing Association  
21 (USBA) Middleweight Title against veteran Wayne Powell; and

22       WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins emerged victorious, winning the USBA  
23 Middleweight Title in a mere 21 seconds by a knockout; and

24       WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins earned the reputation as a hard-nosed  
25 warrior and would finally receive an opportunity to contend for  
26 a world title shot against Roy Jones, Jr., on May 22, 1993; and

27       WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins lost this bout in 12 hard-fought rounds  
28 by a unanimous decision, suffering only the second loss of his  
29 still-budding career; and

30       WHEREAS, Using this loss as motivation, Mr. Hopkins put his

1 heart and soul into his training and four months later defended  
2 his USBA crown by way of a technical knockout (TKO) victory over  
3 previously unbeaten Roy Ritchie; and

4 WHEREAS, Two title defenses followed which earned Mr. Hopkins  
5 a second shot at contending for a world title; and

6 WHEREAS, Although his dreams of capturing a world title would  
7 once again be deferred, Mr. Hopkins finally earned the title of  
8 world champion in convincing fashion against Segundo Mercado on  
9 April 29, 1995; and

10 WHEREAS, From the late 1990s through the early 2000s, Mr.  
11 Hopkins dominated the middleweight division, successfully  
12 defending the International Boxing Federation (IBF) title 12  
13 times against quality contenders; and

14 WHEREAS, The combination of speed and precision with which  
15 Mr. Hopkins vanquished his opponents earned him the nickname  
16 "The Executioner"; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2001, Mr. Hopkins was named Ring Magazine Fighter  
18 of the Year and World Hall of Fame Fighter of the Year; and

19 WHEREAS, In February 2003, Mr. Hopkins not only used his  
20 physical prowess to make an impact upon the boxing world, he  
21 also was an outspoken advocate for fighters' rights, even  
22 testifying before Congress in support of the Muhammad Ali Boxing  
23 Reform Act; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins continued to establish himself as an  
25 all-time great by scoring victories over marquee names such as  
26 Felix "Tito" Trinidad and Oscar De La Hoya, successfully  
27 defending his title for a record-setting 20th time; and

28 WHEREAS, Although his title defense streak would finally come  
29 to an end on July 15, 2005, soon thereafter, Mr. Hopkins  
30 achieved the amazing feat of moving up two weight classes and

1 capturing the light heavyweight title against Antonio Tarver on  
2 June 10, 2006; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins regained the middleweight title on  
4 October 18, 2008, and twice defended the light heavyweight title  
5 against boxing elites, Roy Jones, Jr., and Winky Wright; and

6 WHEREAS, On May 21, 2011, in a bout for the light heavyweight  
7 title against Jean Pascal, Mr. Hopkins further solidified his  
8 legacy as one of the greatest fighters in the history of the  
9 sport by becoming the oldest world champion in boxing history at  
10 the age of 46; and

11 WHEREAS, To date, Mr. Hopkins as compiled a stellar record of  
12 52 wins, five losses and two draws, with 32 of the victories by  
13 knockouts (KOs), and is regarded as an unequivocal future hall  
14 of fame inductee; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and  
16 honor the achievements and contributions of Bernard Hopkins to  
17 the sport of boxing and the City of Philadelphia.