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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 371 Session of  
2011

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INTRODUCED BY WATERS, V. BROWN, BISHOP, EVERETT, GEIST, BRENNAN,  
BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, DALEY, DIGIROLAMO, FABRIZIO, FLECK,  
FREEMAN, GEORGE, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, MAHONEY, MANN, MILLARD,  
MIRABITO, PASHINSKI, SAINATO, SANTONI, STABACK, SWANGER,  
VEREB, YOUNGBLOOD AND MURT, AUGUST 22, 2011

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

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Edythe Scott Bagley and  
2 extending condolences to her family and many colleagues.

3 WHEREAS, Serving as a source of strength and wisdom to her  
4 family and the civil rights movement, Mrs. Edythe Scott Bagley  
5 played an integral role in advocating on the behalf of social  
6 equality and academic excellence; and

7 WHEREAS, Edythe Scott was born on December 13, 1924, in  
8 Marion, Alabama; and

9 WHEREAS, A graduate of Lincoln High School in 1943, Ms. Scott  
10 was crowned the school's valedictorian during her senior year  
11 and earned a scholarship to Antioch College, located in Yellow  
12 Springs, Ohio; and

13 WHEREAS, She was recruited through the college's Interracial  
14 Education Scholarship, thus becoming the school's first African-  
15 American student during the modern era; and

16 WHEREAS, The integrated collegiate experience had an

1 overwhelming impact upon Edythe, both as a student and as a  
2 human being, which encouraged her to persuade her younger  
3 sister, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, to also attend college; and

4 WHEREAS, During her senior year Edythe Scott transferred to  
5 Ohio State University and went on to earn her bachelor's degree;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, She attended Columbia University where she earned  
8 her master's degree in English; and

9 WHEREAS, Soon thereafter, Ms. Scott landed a teaching  
10 position at the Elizabeth City State Teachers College, located  
11 in Elizabeth City, North Carolina; and

12 WHEREAS, During her tenure with the college she met and wed  
13 her husband, Arthur M. Bagley, on June 5, 1954; and

14 WHEREAS, Mrs. Scott Bagley went on to instruct at various  
15 colleges and universities, including Albany State College, North  
16 Carolina A&T University and Norfolk State University; and

17 WHEREAS, Her insatiable thirst for knowledge led her back to  
18 graduate school where she became the first African-American  
19 woman to earn her master of fine arts degree from Boston  
20 University in 1965; and

21 WHEREAS, Following the assassination of her brother-in-law,  
22 Martin Luther King, Jr., she actively served as a member of the  
23 board of directors for the Atlanta-based King Center; and

24 WHEREAS, Mrs. Scott Bagley was a key figure in implementing  
25 the King Center's Cultural Affairs program; and

26 WHEREAS, From 1970 through 1972, she was instrumental in  
27 developing the major of black drama for Michigan State  
28 University; and

29 WHEREAS, In 1971, she joined Cheyney University's faculty and  
30 undertook the task of developing a theater arts major for the

1 school, which Pennsylvania's Department of Education eventually  
2 approved in 1980; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to teaching, Mrs. Scott Bagley excelled  
4 in directing both Cheyney University's student repertory group  
5 as well as several other major classical and modern literature  
6 productions; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1994, she and her sister, Coretta Scott King,  
8 were featured in the New York Time's best-selling book  
9 "Sisters," which highlights notable sets of sisters that have  
10 made strides in life despite adverse circumstances and life's  
11 invariable setbacks; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1996, her vision became realized with the  
13 completed construction of Cheyney University's modern theater  
14 arts facility; and

15 WHEREAS, During that same year she retired from Cheyney  
16 University after 26 years of dutiful service; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout her illustrious career and during her  
18 retirement, Mrs. Scott Bagley was an active member in several  
19 national organizations, such as the American Association of  
20 University Women, the National Association for the Advancement  
21 of Colored People, the National Council for Negro Women and  
22 Link, Incorporated; and

23 WHEREAS, In honor of her closest confidante and beloved  
24 sister, Edythe Scott Bagley recently completed a biography of  
25 Coretta Scott King; and

26 WHEREAS, For all of her accomplishments in the realm of  
27 academia, she was just as passionate about her faith and  
28 religion; and

29 WHEREAS, She was a pious and active member of St. Paul's  
30 Baptist Church, located in West Chester; and

1       WHEREAS, On June 11, 2011, Mrs. Edythe Scott Bagley died at  
2 the age of 86 years, leaving behind a legacy of academic  
3 excellence and social empowerment that shall live on for many  
4 years to come; therefore be it

5       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express its  
6 profound sorrow over the passing of Mrs. Edythe Scott Bagley and  
7 extend its heartfelt condolences to her family, friends and  
8 innumerable colleagues.