
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 408 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY CLYMER, AUMENT, BAKER, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, BROOKS,
CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GILLEN,
GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, HAHN, HENNESSEY, HESS,
HICKERNELL, KILLION, MAJOR, MALONEY, MANN, MILLARD, MURT,
QUINN, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SAINATO,
SIMMONS, STERN, SWANGER, THOMAS, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD,
SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 300th anniversary of the birth of Henry
2 Melchior Muhlenberg.

3 WHEREAS, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg is the patriarch of
4 American Lutheranism; and

5 WHEREAS, He was born in Einbeck in Hanover, Germany, in 1711,
6 and studied theology at Georg-August University of Gottingen and
7 at Halle University; and

8 WHEREAS, He completed his studies in 1738 and four years
9 later immigrated to Philadelphia and took charge of a
10 congregation at Providence in present-day Trappe, Montgomery
11 County; and

12 WHEREAS, Lutherans in America at that time were found in a
13 few scattered communities, of various national backgrounds, with
14 no central organization and with a grave danger of factionalism;
15 and

1 WHEREAS, In 1748, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg convened the
2 Ministerium of Pennsylvania, the first permanent Lutheran synod
3 in the United States, assisted in the preparation of a uniform
4 liturgy and wrote basic tenets for an ecclesiastical
5 constitution, which were adopted by the Lutheran churches by
6 1761; and

7 WHEREAS, He regularly traveled outside Pennsylvania from New
8 York to Georgia during his nearly half century as a minister;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, One of his sons, John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg,
11 served as a general under George Washington in the Revolutionary
12 War; and

13 WHEREAS, Another of his sons, Frederick Augustus Conrad
14 Muhlenberg, became a member of the Continental Congress and the
15 first Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and

16 WHEREAS, A third son, Henry Ernst Muhlenberg, attained
17 distinction as an eminent scholar and first president of
18 Franklin College, now Franklin and Marshall College; and

19 WHEREAS, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg died October 7, 1787, and
20 is buried at Trappe; and

21 WHEREAS, Muhlenberg College is named in honor of Henry
22 Melchior Muhlenberg; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
24 300th anniversary of the birth of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and
25 remember his many contributions.