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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 785 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY WATERS, BISHOP, B. BOYLE, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE,  
WHEATLEY, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, KIRKLAND, CUTLER, KORTZ,  
FLECK, FREEMAN, READSHAW, STURLA, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN,  
HARPER, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HUTCHINSON, JOSEPHS, JAMES,  
LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MUSTIO,  
M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYTON, SACCONI, SANTONI,  
STABACK, SWANGER AND THOMAS, JUNE 19, 2012

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE  
19, 2012

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the third Saturday in June as "Juneteenth National  
2 Freedom Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Originating in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865,  
4 when slaves in that state learned that they had been freed,  
5 Juneteenth National Freedom Day is celebrated in at least 37  
6 states; and

7 WHEREAS, Juneteenth National Freedom Day is the oldest  
8 African-American holiday observance in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates the  
10 survival instinct of Africans who endured a transatlantic  
11 journey, known as the Middle Passage, on slave ships from their  
12 homeland to this country; and

13 WHEREAS, Approximately 11.5 million Africans survived the  
14 harsh voyage to slave markets in the New World during the late  
15 17th century, and the slave population in the American colonies

1 grew quickly; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates  
3 African-American freedom and emphasizes education and  
4 achievement; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
6 third Saturday in June as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" in  
7 Pennsylvania.