

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 373 Session of  
2013

INTRODUCED BY BISHOP AND ROEBUCK, JUNE 18, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 18, 2013

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela for his lifelong dedication  
2 to building a more equitable and united world.

3 WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela was born July 18, 1918, in Transkei,  
4 South Africa; and

5 WHEREAS, After years of exposure to the inhumanities of  
6 apartheid, a system of legalized segregation policies enforced  
7 by the ruling National Party, Nelson Mandela began working to  
8 promote the advancement of human rights issues in South Africa;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela attended the University College of  
11 Fort Hare and studied law at the University of Witwatersrand,  
12 where he later earned a degree in law; and

13 WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela joined the African National Congress  
14 in 1944, a liberation group that opposed the apartheid policies  
15 enforced by the National Party; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1963, Nelson Mandela and others were found guilty  
17 and charged with life in prison for sabotage, treason and  
18 violent conspiracy against the government, in what is now known

1 as the Rivonia Trial; and

2 WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for 27 years, 6  
3 months and 1 week with much of the time spent at the notorious  
4 Robben Island Prison, located in Cape Town, South Africa; and

5 WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela never surrendered his political  
6 principles while in prison; and

7 WHEREAS, On February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was released  
8 from prison under South Africa's President, F. W. de Klerk; and

9 WHEREAS, On the day of his release, Nelson Mandela quoted his  
10 famous words from the Rivonia Trial, "I have fought against  
11 white domination and I have fought against black domination. I  
12 have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in  
13 which all persons live together in harmony and with equal  
14 opportunities"; and

15 WHEREAS, With the collapse of apartheid, Nelson Mandela  
16 peacefully guided the transition of South Africa into a  
17 nonracial democracy, unifying a once-divided people; and

18 WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela became the first democratically  
19 elected president of the African National Congress in 1994; and

20 WHEREAS, During his presidency, Nelson Mandela formed the  
21 Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which investigated and  
22 studied human rights violations, housing issues, educational  
23 policies and economic development standards in South Africa; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1996, South Africa enacted its first democratic  
25 constitution, which was overseen by Nelson Mandela; and

26 WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela continues to strive to make the world  
27 a better place to live; and

28 WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela's accomplishments have been  
29 acknowledged by more than 250 awards, including the Nobel Peace  
30 Prize and the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom;

1   therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor Nelson  
3   Rolihlahla Mandela for his lifelong dedication to building a  
4   more equitable and united world.