

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 937 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY WATERS, BROWNLEE, HENNESSEY, B. BOYLE, BISHOP,
MIRABITO, READSHAW, MILLARD, V. BROWN AND THOMAS,
JULY 1, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JULY 1, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing participating in sports and cheering for sports as a
2 unifying force among the citizens of this Commonwealth and
3 the United States.

4 WHEREAS, In 1936, at the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin,
5 Jesse Owens received four gold medals in track and field, broke
6 various Olympic and world records and upset Adolf Hitler due to
7 his representation of the United States and his African-American
8 descent; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1938, Joe Louis, also known as the "Brown Bomber"
10 because of his African-American descent, knocked out Germany's
11 Max Schmeling in a boxing match between the United States and
12 Nazi Germany, giving a divided America a common hero to stand
13 behind; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1947, Jack Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson, shattered
15 racial barriers through his stoicism and exceptional play for
16 the Brooklyn Dodgers to become the first African-American player
17 in modern Major League Baseball; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1948, at the Cotton Bowl, Southern Methodist
2 University attempted to ask its competitor Penn State University
3 to leave behind African-American player and Cheltenham native
4 Wallace "Wally" Triplett, causing Team Captain Steve Suhey to
5 reply: "We are Penn State. There will be no meetings," which
6 united the team and university in a cheer that continues to this
7 day; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1968, at the Games of the XIX Olympiad in Mexico
9 City, gold medalist Tommie Smith and bronze medalist John Carlos
10 raised their black-gloved fists during the national anthem to
11 display their opposition to racial discrimination, resulting in
12 unity of ethnic groups all around the world trying to end racial
13 discrimination; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1973, during the exhibition tennis match dubbed
15 the "Battle of the Sexes," Billie Jean King defeated then-
16 returning Wimbledon Champion Bobby Riggs at the Houston
17 Astrodome, giving women a boost in gender equality and sports
18 recognition; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1976, the Philadelphia Flyers overpowered the
20 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in a 4-1 win, proving that
21 the United States could compete on the international stage in
22 hockey and bringing American citizens closer together; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2003, professional golfer and Lancaster native
24 Jim Furyk shot a 272 in the U.S. Open and tied the record for
25 the then-lowest score in U.S. Open history, putting him in the
26 company of golfing royalty such as Jack Nicklaus, Lee Janzen and
27 Tiger Woods, and he became the U.S. Open Champion at Olympia
28 Fields, uniting all of Pennsylvania in celebration; and

29 WHEREAS, In 2013, Jason Collins became the first openly gay
30 player in the National Basketball Association when he joined the

1 Brooklyn Nets for ten scoreless minutes in a game against the
2 Los Angeles Lakers and also became the first openly gay player
3 in any professional sports league; and

4 WHEREAS, In the 2014 National Football League Draft, the St.
5 Louis Rams drafted defensive end Michael Sam from the University
6 of Missouri, providing further inspiration to the LGBT
7 community, the country and the world; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize that
9 competition and participation in sports at the local, state,
10 national and international levels enriches athletes and fans
11 alike and brings people of all ages, genders, races, languages,
12 political affiliations and sexual orientations together; and be
13 it further

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
15 role that sports has played in bringing us together as Americans
16 and as citizens of this Commonwealth; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the
18 citizens of this Commonwealth to recognize the power of sports
19 to unify their communities; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
21 participating in sports and cheering for sports as a unifying
22 force among the citizens of this Commonwealth and the United
23 States.