

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 103 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY YOUNGBLOOD, GROVE, CRUZ, KINSEY, COHEN, THOMAS, MILLARD, J. HARRIS, BISHOP, SCHLOSSBERG, KIM, ACOSTA, KIRKLAND, FARINA, CALTAGIRONE, BROWNLEE, HENNESSEY, V. BROWN, SIMS, SCHWEYER, STURLA, FRANKEL, GAINNEY, WATSON, MOUL, D. COSTA, WATERS AND MURT, FEBRUARY 23, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 23, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Geologic Survey within the Department
 2 of the Interior, to rename Negro Mountain in Somerset County
 3 to accurately reflect the history of the region and to update
 4 related governmental maps, brochures, plaques and signs.

5 WHEREAS, Negro Mountain is an approximately 30-mile-long
 6 ridge of the Allegheny Mountains that spans from Maryland north
 7 into the Casselman River in Somerset County; and

8 WHEREAS, The highest point of Negro Mountain, rising 3,213
 9 feet, is the highest point in Pennsylvania; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1756 during the French and Indian War, a battle
 11 on Negro Mountain ensued between a band of volunteers led by the
 12 English-born pioneer Thomas Cresap and Native Americans on the
 13 mountain; and

14 WHEREAS, Historical reports of the account, including reports
 15 written by Cresap himself, note that while crossing the
 16 mountain, a party of Native Americans fired upon the volunteers
 17 and mortally wounded a black frontiersman; and

1 WHEREAS, A piece of a hollow log was found and placed over
2 the man to shelter him, and, throwing it off, he said, "Save
3 yourselves and never mind me; I shall die soon"; and

4 WHEREAS, Cresap wrote an account of the expedition for
5 Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette of June 17, 1756; and

6 WHEREAS, It is said that Negro Mountain took its name from
7 this battle, notably from the heroism of the "Negro" who gave
8 his life to protect the other volunteers; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1882, J. Thomas Scharf stated in *History of*
10 *Western Maryland* that the wounded man's name was Nemesis; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1921, the highest point of Negro Mountain was
12 officially recognized as Mount Davis, after John N. Davis, the
13 settler who once owned the land; and

14 WHEREAS, No official geological document or map accurately
15 displays the name of the "Negro," Nemesis, who bravely gave his
16 life to save others; and

17 WHEREAS, The official Pennsylvania transportation and tourism
18 map distributed by the Department of Transportation does not
19 include a reference to Negro Mountain, but references Mount
20 Davis; and

21 WHEREAS, The lack of documentation of Negro Mountain on the
22 official Commonwealth's transportation and tourism map
23 highlights the need to change the name of Negro Mountain to
24 something more appropriate for display and print on official
25 documents; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, Urging the United States Geological Survey within
27 the Department of the Interior to begin the process of renaming
28 Negro Mountain in Somerset County to accurately reflect the
29 history of the region and the heroism displayed by the African
30 American known as Nemesis in the Negro Mountain conflict of

1 1756; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the United States Geological Survey within the
3 Department of the Interior notify the appropriate State agencies
4 and the Pennsylvania General Assembly of the new name selected
5 for Negro Mountain; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That all related governmental maps, brochures,
7 plaques and signs bear the new name that accurately reflects the
8 heroism of Nemesis and the facts of this heroic historical
9 event.