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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 153 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY BARBIN, READSHAW, HANNA, TURZAI, DERMODY,  
MARKOSEK, PETRARCA, NEUMAN, D. COSTA, FRANKEL, GIBBONS,  
P. COSTA AND VITALI, MARCH 4, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 4, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. John E. Murray, Jr., and  
2 extending condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

3 WHEREAS, John E. Murray, Jr., was born December 20, 1932, in  
4 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

5 WHEREAS, After graduating from LaSalle University with a  
6 bachelor's degree in philosophy, he earned his juris doctor  
7 degree from Catholic University in Washington, DC, and his  
8 doctor of juridical science degree from the University of  
9 Wisconsin; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. John E. Murray, Jr.'s first job in his legal  
11 career was as an associate professor at Duquesne University,  
12 where he taught from 1959 to 1964; and

13 WHEREAS, After teaching at Villanova University School of  
14 Law, he briefly returned to Duquesne University as acting dean  
15 before moving on to a 20-year career at the University of  
16 Pittsburgh, where he served as a professor and as dean of the  
17 law school; and

1       WHEREAS, He would go on to be the dean of Villanova  
2 University School of Law before returning to Duquesne University  
3 in 1988, where he became the Catholic school's first lay  
4 president and served until 2001, when he returned full time to  
5 teaching law, and he continued to be dedicated to his job and  
6 students until the day of his death; and

7       WHEREAS, During his time at Duquesne University, he is  
8 credited with revitalizing not just the Catholic mission of the  
9 school, but also the fundraising program by bringing in more the  
10 \$200 million during his tenure; and

11       WHEREAS, Dr. John E. Murray, Jr., who made his mark in  
12 contract law and was known as a top expert in the field,  
13 authored 26 books, including "Murray on Contracts" and "Murray,  
14 Cases and Materials on Contracts"; and

15       WHEREAS, He was also regarded as an expert in arbitration;  
16 and

17       WHEREAS, He still found time to be an active partner in  
18 Murray, Hogue and Lannis with clients including U.S. Steel,  
19 Alcoa, General Motors, Nissan, Bayer and Electrolux; and

20       WHEREAS, Though he was dedicated to his students, school and  
21 the profession of law, he still found time to contribute to the  
22 community and was the chairman for both the Committee to Prepare  
23 Allegheny County for the 21st Century and the Pittsburgh  
24 Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority; and

25       WHEREAS, For Dr. John E. Murray, Jr., his contributions to  
26 the community and his students were driven by his deep faith in  
27 God; and

28       WHEREAS, Sadly, Dr. John E. Murray, Jr., died suddenly on  
29 Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at the age of 82; and

30       WHEREAS, He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Smuts; his

1 children, Bruce, Susan, Timothy and Jacqueline; six  
2 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and six stepchildren;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Murray once said "you can become a successful  
5 person, make a lot of money or anything else you desire, but if  
6 you're not a better person for having attended Duquesne  
7 University, then we have failed"; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life  
9 and memory of Dr. John E. Murray, Jr., and extend condolences to  
10 his family, friends and colleagues; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
12 the family of Dr. John E. Murray, Jr.