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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 686 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY SACCONI, COHEN, MILLARD, SCHWEYER, BOBACK, BAKER,  
CALTAGIRONE, STAATS, DIGIROLAMO, SONNEY, DUSH, ROZZI, VEREB,  
GREINER, ELLIS, MALONEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, WATSON, JAMES, REGAN,  
MURT, COX, CUTLER, DRISCOLL, WARD, LONGIETTI, MCGINNIS,  
SCHREIBER, REESE, KAUFFMAN, READSHAW, MAJOR, MAHONEY AND  
BIZZARRO, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 9, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the birth of George Washington and honoring the  
2 contributions he made to this nation.

3 WHEREAS, George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, at  
4 Bridges Creek, Westmoreland County, Virginia, to Mary and  
5 Augustine Washington; and

6 WHEREAS, Washington, who was interested in surveying and  
7 attracted to government service, became a member of the Virginia  
8 militia and was at the time of French expansion into the Ohio  
9 Valley a captain of that militia; and

10 WHEREAS, Washington's increased interest in the affairs of  
11 the colony led him to seek a seat in the House of Burgesses; and

12 WHEREAS, As tension with England increased, years later he  
13 became a delegate to the First Continental Congress; and

14 WHEREAS, The Second Continental Congress, assembled in  
15 Philadelphia in May 1775 and presided over by John Hancock,

1 elected George Washington to become the first Commander of the  
2 Continental Army; and

3 WHEREAS, After his failed petition to Congress to form a  
4 national navy, on the brink of the American Revolutionary War,  
5 Washington commissioned six privately owned schooners, later to  
6 be known as Washington's Secret Navy, to intercept incoming  
7 British ships carrying much-needed supplies; and

8 WHEREAS, The schooners flew the Washington Cruises Flag,  
9 sometimes referred to as the Liberty Tree Flag, which was a  
10 white flag with an evergreen tree in the middle and the words  
11 "An Appeal to Heaven" stitched across it; and

12 WHEREAS, The phrase "appeal to heaven," thought to have been  
13 originated by John Locke, was popular prior to and during the  
14 American Revolution because it represented to the colonists  
15 trust in God to deliver them from the tyrannical acts of the  
16 British government; and

17 WHEREAS, Washington's Secret Navy captured a British  
18 brigantine loaded with an abundance of supplies and was so  
19 successful that it inspired the creation of the United States  
20 Navy as we know it today; and

21 WHEREAS, George Washington served as a general and commander  
22 in chief of the colonial armies during the American Revolution;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Because of George Washington's strategy,  
25 Revolutionary forces captured two major British armies at  
26 Saratoga in 1777 and Yorktown in 1781; and

27 WHEREAS, In 1787, George Washington served as the presiding  
28 officer of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia after  
29 being elected as a delegate to that convention; and

30 WHEREAS, Following the ratification of the new Constitution,

1 Washington was elected the first president of the United States  
2 by a unanimous vote of the Electoral College and served from  
3 1789 to 1797; and

4 WHEREAS, George Washington spent his first term establishing  
5 the administrative features of the executive branch, including  
6 the President's cabinet and the departmental agencies of the  
7 Federal Government; and

8 WHEREAS, The new nation quickly adopted his procedures, ideas  
9 and knowledge regarding the running of a new government, many of  
10 which are still followed today; and

11 WHEREAS, Washington was a natural leader and was instrumental  
12 in creating a united nation out of a conglomeration of  
13 struggling colonies and territories; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the  
15 birth of George Washington and honor the contributions he made  
16 to this nation.