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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 951 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, MASSER, KIRKLAND, V. BROWN, MILLARD,  
OBERLANDER, SONNEY, DUSH, RADER, SCHLEGEL CULVER, ORTITAY,  
BIZZARRO, WARD, ROZZI, WARNER, HEFFLEY, KINSEY, DAVIS,  
LONGIETTI, VEREB, HAHN, BOBACK, MACKENZIE, SAYLOR, TOOHL,  
BURNS, MAHER, JOZWIAK, GREINER, EVERETT, YOUNGBLOOD, PEIFER,  
MULLERY, METZGAR, DONATUCCI, MAHONEY, MARSICO, MURT, HARHAI,  
HARHART, DIGIROLAMO, D. COSTA, SANKEY, WHEELAND, MAJOR, ROSS,  
GOODMAN, GABLER, RAPP AND GIBBONS, JUNE 27, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 27, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the third Saturday in July as "Coal Miner Heritage  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Coal miners have played an important part in our  
4 nation's economic and cultural history; and

5 WHEREAS, Coal is one of the largest domestic energy resources  
6 in the history of America; and

7 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is the fourth-largest coal-  
8 producing state, with the earliest record of coal mining dating  
9 to a 1761 plan of Fort Pitt; and

10 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of the world's anthracite coal  
11 is located in northeastern Pennsylvania, known as the anthracite  
12 region; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1958, 50% of the anthracite region's male  
14 industrial work force were coal miners; and

1       WHEREAS, Coal mines were dangerous places to work as injuries  
2 and deaths were common; and

3       WHEREAS, Between 1869 and 1900, in the anthracite mining  
4 industry alone, more than 10,000 miners died due to mine  
5 accidents; and

6       WHEREAS, The coal miners of the anthracite region came from  
7 diverse ethnic groups; and

8       WHEREAS, By 1900, nearly one-fourth of the residents of the  
9 anthracite region were immigrants, and eventually, immigrants  
10 would constitute half of the population of the anthracite  
11 region; and

12       WHEREAS, Though the coal miners and their families may have  
13 come from different ethnic groups, they all adapted to the  
14 difficult trials of mining life through cooperation and  
15 initiative; and

16       WHEREAS, One mining family, speaking of the cooperation  
17 between mining families, said "You took care of one another. You  
18 never questioned it. In our family we never expected anything in  
19 return. It was the honor that we had"; and

20       WHEREAS, Various activities held in the anthracite region,  
21 including ethnic festivals, parades, picnics and programs,  
22 continue to reflect the diverse heritage of the coal miners who  
23 worked there; and

24       WHEREAS, The importance of the contributions of coal miners  
25 to our nation and our Commonwealth cannot be overstated; and

26       WHEREAS, President Woodrow Wilson once stated "to the miner  
27 let me say that he stands where the farmer does; the work of the  
28 world waits on him. If he slacks or fails armies and statesmen  
29 are helpless. He also is enlisted in the great service army";  
30 therefore be it

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
2 third Saturday in July as "Coal Miner Heritage Day" in  
3 Pennsylvania.