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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 510 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY NEILSON, DONATUCCI, SOLOMON, HENNESSEY, KINSEY,  
MURT, ROTHMAN, DRISCOLL, FREEMAN, BIZZARRO, RABB, SAINATO,  
O'BRIEN, THOMAS, WHEATLEY, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD, READSHAW,  
QUIGLEY, MARSICO, CALTAGIRONE, VAZQUEZ, DeLUCA, ROEBUCK AND  
JOZWIAK, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the bicentennial of the Bethany African Methodist  
2 Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

3 WHEREAS, Bethany African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church  
4 of Northeast Philadelphia is celebrating 200 years of standing  
5 on the promises of God and being in service to the community;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Bethany A.M.E. Church was founded in 1817 by Elias  
8 Chase with the help of freed slaves, making it the second-oldest  
9 A.M.E. congregation in the world; and

10 WHEREAS, The church dates to the pre-Civil War years, when  
11 freed slaves acquired modest farms in the area; and

12 WHEREAS, A church building was constructed on land donated by  
13 the Quakers shortly after the turn of the 19th century; and

14 WHEREAS, Historical records show that there were several  
15 African-American landowners in the vicinity of present-day  
16 Ashton Road; and

1       WHEREAS, Many area residents were sharecroppers who used  
2 their accumulated resources to build the second A.M.E. Church in  
3 1817; and

4       WHEREAS, Bethany A.M.E. Church has served as a place of free  
5 worship for all residents of Philadelphia since 1817; and

6       WHEREAS, Bethany A.M.E. Church represents one of the most  
7 important and historic institutions in this Commonwealth;  
8 therefore be it

9       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the  
10 bicentennial of Bethany African Methodist Episcopal Church in  
11 Philadelphia.