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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 267 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, JANUARY 31, 2018

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 31, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the 100th anniversary of the commencement of service by  
2 the Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Philadelphia Hospital and  
3 Trinity Health.

4 WHEREAS, In 1913, the Most Reverend Edmond Francis  
5 Prendergast, third Archbishop of Philadelphia, asked the Sisters  
6 of Mercy to build a much-needed hospital in West Philadelphia;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Possessing only \$2,000, Mother Patricia Waldron  
9 raised the funds needed to build the hospital by mortgaging the  
10 convents while several sisters traveled to Pittsburgh and  
11 Baltimore to train as nurses and others learned pharmacy and  
12 pathology nearby; and

13 WHEREAS, On September 24, 1916, during the Feast of Our Lady  
14 of Mercy, the cornerstone of the hospital was laid by the Right  
15 Reverend Bishop John J. McCort in the presence of 30,000 event  
16 attendees, including Governor Martin Grove Brumbaugh; and

17 WHEREAS, On June 15, 1918, the hospital, known as  
18 Misericordia Hospital, was formally announced in a Catholic  
19 newspaper, *The Catholic Standard and Times*, as "conceived in

1 faith, built in hope, and opened in the name of Christian  
2 charity"; and

3 WHEREAS, The hospital's official opening was celebrated on  
4 July 2, 1918, with a mass in the hospital chapel celebrated by  
5 the Right Reverend Bishop McCort; and

6 WHEREAS, The hospital admitted the first patient on July 4,  
7 1918, and the Misericordia Hospital School of Nursing opened on  
8 July 14 of that year; and

9 WHEREAS, By 1926, the hospital's initial 100 beds had  
10 expanded to 250, and by 1930 there were more than 1,000  
11 attending (inpatient) staff, more than 870 outpatient staff,  
12 more than 5,300 patient admissions, 4,028 operations, 845 births  
13 and 18,357 patients treated for emergency visits; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1933, the Sisters of Mercy were asked to  
15 administer a second hospital, Fitzgerald Mercy, located in  
16 nearby Darby; and

17 WHEREAS, In the 1940s and 1950s, Misericordia Hospital  
18 experienced much growth, including the construction of new wings  
19 and expansion of the operating room suite and the radiology,  
20 pathology and OB/GYN departments; and

21 WHEREAS, On January 31, 1960, more than 2,300 people attended  
22 an open house for the official opening of two modern wings of  
23 the hospital, which were built in 1958, represented \$5 million  
24 in development investment and included a capacity of 400 beds, a  
25 new 10-bed intensive care unit, a new pediatrics department, a  
26 chapel, a surgical floor and three lecture classrooms for nurses  
27 and interns; and

28 WHEREAS, With the addition of these two wings, Misericordia  
29 Hospital became the largest Catholic hospital in Philadelphia in  
30 1960; and

1 WHEREAS, For the hospital's 50th anniversary, Bishop George  
2 L. Leech of Harrisburg celebrated an outdoor mass on July 2,  
3 1968, in front of the hospital; and

4 WHEREAS, In its first 50 years, between 1918 and 1968, the  
5 hospital had 326,959 admissions, 65,732 births, 170,232  
6 operations, 623,379 emergency room visits, 1,177,068 clinic  
7 visits, 1,884 nurse graduates and 506 interns and residents; and

8 WHEREAS, Demographic changes during the 1960s and early 1970s  
9 caused the use of both maternity and pediatric services to  
10 decline markedly; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1988, Misericordia Hospital began a period of  
12 renewal and growth establishing Mercy Health Corporation as the  
13 parent organization to provide administrative guidance for  
14 Misericordia Hospital and its sister facility, Fitzgerald Mercy  
15 Hospital, as well as to further develop other health care  
16 initiatives; and

17 WHEREAS, Back from the brink of possible closure, in 1991 the  
18 hospital launched a five-year, \$52 million renovation to include  
19 a 440-car parking garage, renovated surgical suites and recovery  
20 rooms, upgraded nursing units and patient rooms, a computerized  
21 alarm system and new imaging technology; and

22 WHEREAS, To help meet children's health care needs in West  
23 Philadelphia, Misericordia Hospital dedicated the Huey Family  
24 Health Center in November 1992, providing physicians, pediatric  
25 nurse practitioners and support staff offering medical and  
26 health-related services, including immunizations, checkups and  
27 early intervention to more than 900 children; and

28 WHEREAS, By 1993, the hospital was responding to specific  
29 community needs by focusing its clinical services on cardiology,  
30 oncology and maternal child health, having been chosen to

1 participate in a nationwide model program of 49 hospitals  
2 designed to identify and meet community health care needs; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1997, Misericordia Hospital became known as Mercy  
4 Philadelphia Hospital; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout the second decade of the 21st century,  
6 Mercy Philadelphia Hospital has continued to provide high-  
7 quality, safe and compassionate care to the West Philadelphia  
8 community; and

9 WHEREAS, Mercy Philadelphia Hospital is deeply engrained in  
10 the densely populated local community, with most patients coming  
11 from within a five-mile radius and with community outreach and  
12 charity continuing to be an important aspect of the hospital's  
13 relationship with the West Philadelphia community; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2014, Mercy Health System's parent organization  
15 announced its new name as Trinity Health and revealed a new  
16 branding identity and strategy for the system that emphasized a  
17 people-centered approach to its service to individuals and  
18 communities; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the 100th anniversary of the  
20 commencement of service by the Sisters of Mercy of the Mercy  
21 Philadelphia Hospital and Trinity Health; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the steadfast dedication  
23 of Mercy Philadelphia Hospital's and Trinity Health's staff and  
24 leadership to West Philadelphia and the surrounding communities  
25 which they serve; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate congratulate Mercy Philadelphia  
27 Hospital and Trinity Health on their record of achievement and  
28 service in reaching the remarkable milestones described in this  
29 resolution.