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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 355 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, KORTZ, DiGIROLAMO, HILL-EVANS, BURNS,  
DONATUCCI, READSHAW, LONGIETTI, McCLINTON, YOUNGBLOOD,  
MILLARD, MARKOSEK, CALTAGIRONE, KINSEY AND FREEMAN,  
MAY 29, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 29, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 25, 2019, as "National Tap Dance Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania and highlighting the community efforts of the  
3 Philadelphia Community Tap Project.

4 WHEREAS, "National Tap Dance Day" is a celebration of tap  
5 dancing as an American art form; and

6 WHEREAS, Tap dance is a form of dance characterized by a  
7 tapping sound that is created from metal plates that are  
8 attached to both the ball and the heel of the dancer's shoes;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Tap dancers make frequent use of syncopation,  
11 starting choreography on the first or the eighth beat count; and

12 WHEREAS, Tap dancing is often described as the fusion of  
13 British Isles clog and step dancing with the rhythms of West-  
14 African drumming; and

15 WHEREAS, Early tap dancers like Fred Astaire provided a  
16 ballroom look to tap dancing, while Gene Kelly used his  
17 extensive ballet training to make tap dancing incorporate ballet

1 parts; and

2 WHEREAS, Each year, "National Tap Dance Day" is celebrated  
3 globally on May 25, the agreed-upon birthday of legendary tap  
4 pioneer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1989, a resolution declaring May 25 as "National  
6 Tap Dance Day" won Congressional passage and was signed into law  
7 on November 8, 1989, by President George H.W. Bush; and

8 WHEREAS, "National Tap Dance Day" is an appropriate time for  
9 this Commonwealth to recognize the efforts of the Philadelphia  
10 Community Tap Project as an organization that presents free and  
11 low-cost tap dance education, practice and performance  
12 opportunities in the Philadelphia area; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout the year, the Philadelphia Community Tap  
14 Project executes three main programming streams:

15 (1) Education classes for adults, culminating in  
16 performance opportunities.

17 (2) A training program and performance opportunities for  
18 youths.

19 (3) An annual city-wide outdoor celebration for  
20 "National Tap Dance Day";

21 and

22 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Community Tap Project connects  
23 Philadelphia tap dancers and musicians with internationally  
24 known percussive artists from around the world; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize May 25,  
26 2019, as "National Tap Dance Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon  
29 Pennsylvania residents to celebrate and promote the art and  
30 culture of tap dance in this Commonwealth and the United States.