
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 369 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, BARRAR, BIZZARRO, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE,
CAUSER, COX, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FREEMAN,
HAHN, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, JOHNSON-HARRELL, KAUFFMAN,
KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MOUL,
NEILSON, OBERLANDER, PICKETT, PYLE, READSHAW, RYAN, SONNEY,
YOUNGBLOOD AND ZIMMERMAN, JUNE 3, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 3, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 145th birthday of Violet Oakley and her
2 important artistic contributions to this Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, Violet Oakley was born on June 10, 1874, in Bergen
4 Heights, New Jersey; and

5 WHEREAS, After studying art in England and France, Ms. Oakley
6 returned to the United States in 1896 and continued her artistic
7 education at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and
8 Drexel Institute in Philadelphia; and

9 WHEREAS, Ms. Oakley became renowned as the first prominent
10 female artist in mural decoration, a field of expression that
11 had been exclusively practiced by men up until that time in the
12 United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Oakley excelled at murals and stained glass
14 designs that addressed themes from history and literature in
15 Renaissance-revival styles; and

1 WHEREAS, At the 1904 Saint Louis International Exposition,
2 Ms. Oakley won the gold medal in illustration for watercolor and
3 the silver medal in mural decoration for her murals at All
4 Angels' Church; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1905, Ms. Oakley became the first woman to
6 receive the Gold Medal of Honor from the Pennsylvania Academy of
7 Fine Arts; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Oakley painted a series of 43 murals in the
9 Pennsylvania State Capitol Building, specifically for the Senate
10 Chamber, the Governor's Grand Reception Room and the Supreme
11 Court Chamber; and

12 WHEREAS, The project for the Senate and Supreme Court
13 Chambers took 16 years; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1915, Ms. Oakley was awarded the Medal of Honor
15 in the painting category at the 1915 Panama-Pacific
16 International Exposition in San Francisco; and

17 WHEREAS, Ms. Oakley died on February 25, 1961, and was buried
18 in her family's plot at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New
19 York; and

20 WHEREAS, All but one of Ms. Oakley's commissions for artistic
21 projects were located in Pennsylvania and her most famous
22 commission was for the Pennsylvania State Capitol; therefore be
23 it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
25 145th birthday of Violet Oakley and her important artistic
26 contributions to this Commonwealth.