
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 478 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, BERNSTINE, BOBACK, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE,
CONKLIN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DIGIROLAMO, KAUFFMAN, KINSEY,
KNOWLES, KORTZ, MILLARD, MOUL, MURT, NEILSON, PICKETT, PYLE,
ROTHMAN, RYAN, SONNEY, STAATS AND WILLIAMS,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring John William Heisman, the namesake of the Heisman
2 Trophy, on the occasion of his 150th birthday.

3 WHEREAS, John William Heisman was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on
4 October 23, 1869, and raised near Titusville, Crawford County;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, After graduating from Titusville High School in
7 1887, John Heisman enrolled at Brown University; and

8 WHEREAS, John Heisman was awarded a law degree from the
9 University of Pennsylvania and, following an eye injury,
10 accepted a football coaching position at Oberlin College in
11 Ohio; and

12 WHEREAS, After the deaths of 21 American college football
13 players in 1904 from injuries sustained on the field, Heisman
14 became a strong proponent of instituting rules to increase the
15 safety of players and advocating improvements to equipment and
16 gear; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1906, Heisman was able to secure major rule
2 changes as a proponent of the legalization of the forward pass,
3 the originator of the "hike" or "hut" shouted by the quarterback
4 to start each play, the center snap, the hidden ball play, the
5 double play, dividing games into quarters and the statistical
6 scoreboard; and

7 WHEREAS, As a college football coach, Heisman compiled a 186-
8 70-18 record over 26 years and won a national championship with
9 Georgia Tech in 1917; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1922, Heisman's "Principles of Football"
11 presented 175 basic axioms of football, which included player
12 behavior, dietary restrictions, roles of the coach and strategic
13 formations and plays; and

14 WHEREAS, Inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in
15 1954, Heisman coached for 35 years at 8 colleges, including the
16 University of Pennsylvania and Washington & Jefferson College in
17 Pennsylvania; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1927, Heisman became the athletics director of
19 the former Downtown Athletic Club in Manhattan, New York, and
20 assisted in the establishment of the Downtown Athletic Club
21 serving as its first president; and

22 WHEREAS, Heisman also founded the Touchdown Club of New York
23 and the National Football Coaches Association; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1935, the Downtown Athletic Club began awarding a
25 Downtown Athletic Club Trophy; and

26 WHEREAS, Heisman died on October 3, 1936, and the Downtown
27 Athletic Club Trophy was renamed the Heisman Memorial Trophy on
28 October 19, 1936, and given to the player voted as the season's
29 best nationwide collegiate player; and

30 WHEREAS, The Heisman Memorial Trophy has been won by many

1 football greats, including Pennsylvanians John Cappelletti of
2 The Pennsylvania State University and Tony Dorsett of the
3 University of Pittsburgh; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor John
5 William Heisman, the namesake of the Heisman Trophy, on the
6 occasion of his 150th birthday.