
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 729 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY RABB, KIM, KORTZ, KINSEY, PASHINSKI, ZABEL,
MILLARD, BURNS, McCLINTON, YOUNGBLOOD AND ROEBUCK,
FEBRUARY 18, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 18, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and achievements of Dr. Noel Ignatiev and
2 expressing condolences on his passing.

3 WHEREAS, On November 9, 2019, Noel Ignatiev died at 78 years
4 of age in Tucson, Arizona; and

5 WHEREAS, On December 27, 1940, Mr. Ignatiev was born to
6 working-class Russian-Jewish immigrants in segregated
7 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Ignatiev attended the University of Pennsylvania
9 for three years before leaving for Chicago to work as a
10 steelworker; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Ignatiev helped organize strikes and protests by
12 the workers at the steel mill; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite not having a bachelor's degree, Mr. Ignatiev
14 was accepted to the Harvard Graduate School of Education where
15 he received a master's degree in education in 1985 and went on
16 to earn a doctorate in the history of American civilization in
17 1994; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Ignatiev was a fellow at Harvard's W.E.B. DuBois
2 Research Institute; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1995, Dr. Ignatiev published his best-known work,
4 "How the Irish Became White," where he sought to challenge the
5 operations that institutionalized racial injustice; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Ignatiev's work encouraged debate and opened a
7 conversation on the idea that race is more about power and
8 privilege than about ancestry and identity; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Ignatiev's academic contributions have continued
10 to educate a new generation experiencing the current resurgence
11 of white nationalism, which he wrote led to segregation and
12 other manifestations of racism; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Ignatiev's dedication and commitment to social
14 change and activism addressing race and privilege served as an
15 essential voice in the world of academia; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
17 and achievements of Dr. Noel Ignatiev and express condolences on
18 his passing; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
20 the family of Noel Ignatiev.