
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 833 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DeLUCA, KORTZ, DONATUCCI, MERSKI, KINSEY, BURNS,
READSHAW, HILL-EVANS, MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD AND NEILSON,
MARCH 23, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 23, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Barbara Elaine Smith and expressing
2 condolences upon her passing.

3 WHEREAS, Barbara Elaine Smith, known professionally as B.
4 Smith, was born August 24, 1949, in Everson, Pennsylvania, to a
5 father who was a steelworker and a mother who was a part-time
6 housekeeper; and

7 WHEREAS, B. Smith graduated from Southmoreland High School
8 and attended modeling school in Pittsburgh, starting her
9 illustrious career as a model; and

10 WHEREAS, In July 1976, at 26 years of age, B. Smith became
11 one of the first African-American women on the cover of
12 *Mademoiselle* magazine; and

13 WHEREAS, B. Smith's modeling career included gracing the
14 cover of 15 magazines and starring in multiple television and
15 radio advertisements; and

16 WHEREAS, B. Smith also served as a spokeswoman for well-known
17 companies and products, including Verizon, Colgate, Palmolive

1 Oxy and McCormick's Lawry's seasonings products; and
2 WHEREAS, In addition to a successful modeling career, B.
3 Smith hosted the nationally syndicated cable television show, B.
4 Smith with Style, which debuted in 1997 and aired for nearly a
5 decade in more than 90% of American households and in 40
6 countries; and

7 WHEREAS, B. Smith was an accomplished restaurateur who opened
8 restaurants in Washington, DC, and Manhattan and Sag Harbor, New
9 York; and

10 WHEREAS, B. Smith was also a distinguished author who wrote
11 three home entertaining books, including "B. Smith's
12 Entertaining and Cooking for Friends," which was the first
13 tabletop entertainment and lifestyle book written by an African
14 American; and

15 WHEREAS, The "B. Smith with Style Home Collection," which
16 included bedding, tabletop and bath products, was the first line
17 from an African-American woman to be sold at a nationwide
18 retailer; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Museum of African American History and
20 Culture has displayed B. Smith's signature tagline of "Whatever
21 you do, do it with style!"; and

22 WHEREAS, B. Smith was a renowned nonprofessional chef and was
23 inducted into the American Chef Corps in 2012; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2013, at 64 years of age, B. Smith was diagnosed
25 with early-onset Alzheimer's disease; and

26 WHEREAS, Older African Americans are almost twice as likely
27 as older Caucasians to have Alzheimer's disease or another form
28 of dementia; and

29 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of
30 death in the United States and approximately 280,000

1 Pennsylvanians are living with Alzheimer's disease; and
2 WHEREAS, B. Smith soon went public with her diagnosis and
3 worked tirelessly to destigmatize and raise awareness of
4 Alzheimer's disease and its impact on the African-American
5 community; and

6 WHEREAS, That work included public appearances and writing
7 the book "Before I Forget," which is the story of B. Smith's
8 battle with Alzheimer's disease; and

9 WHEREAS, B. Smith lost her battle with Alzheimer's disease
10 and passed away on February 22, 2020, at 70 years of age; and

11 WHEREAS, The life and accomplishments of B. Smith are an
12 inspiration to many; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life,
14 accomplishments and memory of Barbara Elaine Smith.