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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 236 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY BISHOP, WATERS, P. DALEY, CALTAGIRONE, VEREB,  
DIGIROLAMO, PARKER, SWANGER, CRUZ, O'BRIEN, YOUNGBLOOD,  
V. BROWN, B. BOYLE, MILLARD, FREEMAN, KORTZ, THOMAS, ROCK,  
GRELL, FRANKEL, CLYMER, HESS, COHEN, FLECK, MAHONEY, GOODMAN,  
D. COSTA, GINGRICH, QUINN, HENNESSEY AND EVERETT,  
APRIL 15, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 15, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the legacy of the late Dr. Cynthia Delores Tucker,  
2 former Secretary of the Commonwealth, who attained  
3 distinction as the highest-ranking African-American woman in  
4 State Government and a longtime civil rights leader.

5 WHEREAS, Born in Philadelphia on October 4, 1927, Dr. Tucker  
6 dedicated her life to eliminating racial barriers by championing  
7 civil rights and the rights of women; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Tucker attended Temple University, The  
9 Pennsylvania State University and the University of Pennsylvania  
10 and received honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Morris College  
11 and Villa Maria College; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Tucker became active in the postwar civil rights  
13 movement when she worked to register African-American voters  
14 during the 1950 Philadelphia mayoral campaign; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Tucker became the first African American and  
16 first woman to serve on the Philadelphia Zoning Board; and

1       WHEREAS, In the 1960s, Dr. Tucker joined the Reverend Dr.  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr., in demonstrations calling for equality  
3 and justice, including the march in Alabama from Selma to  
4 Montgomery in support of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and  
5 participated in the White House Conference on Civil Rights; and

6       WHEREAS, As Secretary of the Commonwealth from 1971 through  
7 1977, when she was the first African-American secretary of a  
8 state in our nation, Dr. Tucker provided leadership as the  
9 Commonwealth passed the Equal Rights Amendment, lowered the  
10 voting age to 18 and instituted voter registration by mail; and

11       WHEREAS, Dr. Tucker further promoted the appointment of the  
12 highest number of women to the judiciary, and women and  
13 minorities to boards and commissions in Commonwealth history;  
14 and;

15       WHEREAS, In 1984, Dr. Tucker founded the National Political  
16 Congress of Black Women, now known as the National Congress of  
17 Black Women, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the  
18 educational, political, economic and cultural development of  
19 African-American women and their families; and

20       WHEREAS, In recognition of tireless community activism and  
21 fair-minded leadership, Dr. Tucker was the first African  
22 American to serve as president of the National Federation of  
23 Democratic Women; and

24       WHEREAS, In 1995, Dr. Tucker was named one of People  
25 Magazine's "25 of the World's Most Intriguing People" and was  
26 featured in the inaugural issue of George Magazine for her  
27 personal crusade against the form of hip hop music known as  
28 gangsta rap and the sale of gangsta rap to minors; and

29       WHEREAS, Dr. Tucker died on October 12, 2005, in Norristown;  
30 and

1       WHEREAS, In eulogizing Dr. Tucker at Philadelphia's  
2 Deliverance Evangelistic Church, the Reverend Jesse Jackson  
3 noted that she was "a woman regal and royal and rare with non-  
4 negotiable dignity"; and

5       WHEREAS, A Pennsylvania Historical Marker honoring Dr. Tucker  
6 was dedicated at 670 Lincoln Drive in Philadelphia in 2006; and

7       WHEREAS, The House of Representatives respectfully  
8 acknowledges Dr. Tucker's achievements in public service and her  
9 pursuit of justice and equality in this Commonwealth and beyond;  
10 therefore be it

11       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the legacy  
12 of the late Dr. Cynthia Delores Tucker, former Secretary of the  
13 Commonwealth, who attained distinction as the highest-ranking  
14 African-American woman in State Government and a longtime civil  
15 rights leader.