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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 27 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY ROTHMAN, MENTZER, RYAN, CAUSER, KENYATTA, SANCHEZ,  
HICKERNELL, STAMBAUGH, BOBACK, SONNEY, D. WILLIAMS,  
LONGIETTI, HOHENSTEIN, MERSKI, SCHWEYER, PICKETT, HAMM,  
VITALI, STAATS, FREEMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, MILLARD, GROVE,  
JAMES, McNEILL, BURNS, B. MILLER, MARSHALL, FRANKEL, SAYLOR,  
DeLUCA AND HENNESSEY, JANUARY 27, 2021

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 27, 2021

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of the former two-term Governor of  
2 Pennsylvania, Richard "Dick" Thornburgh, who passed away  
3 December 31, 2020, at 88 years of age.

4 WHEREAS, Richard Lewis Thornburgh was born July 16, 1932, and  
5 grew up in Rosslyn Farms, near Pittsburgh; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh attended Yale University and acquired  
7 a bachelor's degree in engineering and then achieved a law  
8 degree from the University of Pittsburgh; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh had a long-lasting political career,  
10 beginning with a bid to serve as a Republican member of the  
11 United States House of Representatives in 1966; and

12 WHEREAS, Although he lost his House race in 1966, Mr.  
13 Thornburgh was undeterred in his political pursuits; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh went on to serve as a delegate to the  
15 1967-68 Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, where he led  
16 efforts at judicial and local government reform; and

1       WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh's efforts at the 1967-68 Pennsylvania  
2 Constitutional Convention led to him being appointed as the  
3 United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania,  
4 earning him a reputation for prosecution of organized crime; and

5       WHEREAS, In 1975, President Gerald Ford appointed Mr.  
6 Thornburgh to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the  
7 United States Department of Justice; and

8       WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh served as Assistant Attorney General  
9 for two years before returning home to Pittsburgh and beginning  
10 his quest to campaign for Governor of Pennsylvania; and

11       WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh defeated six other candidates in his  
12 Republican primary for Governor of Pennsylvania and, after a  
13 successful campaign, began his first term as Governor in 1979;  
14 and

15       WHEREAS, As Governor of Pennsylvania, Mr. Thornburgh notably  
16 streamlined the Commonwealth's finances; and

17       WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh became recognized worldwide in March  
18 of 1979, when the worst nuclear accident in American history  
19 occurred at the Three Mile Island power plant; and

20       WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh was recognized for his levelheaded  
21 leadership during the 10-day crisis, which began a mere 71 days  
22 after he was sworn in as Governor of Pennsylvania; and

23       WHEREAS, In 1988, President Ronald Reagan appointed Mr.  
24 Thornburgh as the United States Attorney General and he was  
25 retained in office after President George H.W. Bush was  
26 inaugurated; and

27       WHEREAS, Mr. Thornburgh was an essential advocate in getting  
28 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 signed into Federal  
29 law; therefore be it

30       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life

1 and legacy of the former two-term Governor of Pennsylvania,  
2 Richard "Dick" Thornburgh, who passed away December 31, 2020, at  
3 88 years of age.