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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 297 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY CLYMER, MAY 6, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 6, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating Saturday, May 4, 2013, as "National History Day in  
2 Pennsylvania."

3 WHEREAS, "National History Day in Pennsylvania" is the  
4 Commonwealth's component of a national, year-long, classroom-  
5 based program that engages students in hands-on historical  
6 research and exploration; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 6,000 students participate on an  
8 annual basis with the support of their school peers, teachers  
9 and parents; and

10 WHEREAS, After competing successfully at the local and  
11 regional contests, more than 1,100 students, teachers, parents  
12 and family members will gather on this date for the 2013  
13 National History Day in Pennsylvania State contest; and

14 WHEREAS, The winners of the State contest will comprise the  
15 Pennsylvania delegation to the national contest at the  
16 University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, from June 9  
17 through June 13, 2013; and

18 WHEREAS, Approximately 120 community volunteers donate their

1 time as judges and staff for the State contest and there are  
2 more than 650 volunteers for the regional contests on an annual  
3 basis; and

4 WHEREAS, The Army Heritage Center Foundation, which is  
5 recognized as an Educational Improvement Organization by the  
6 Department of Education, provides Statewide oversight and  
7 management of the Commonwealth's program and contest; and

8 WHEREAS, National History Day in Pennsylvania is recognized  
9 as an innovative educational program by the Department of  
10 Education; and

11 WHEREAS, National History Day in Pennsylvania is represented  
12 throughout this Commonwealth by 11 regional affiliates that  
13 coordinate activities in 57 counties across this Commonwealth;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The regional affiliates are Edinboro University of  
16 Pennsylvania, The Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre  
17 campus and Hazleton campus, Westminster College, Indiana  
18 University of Pennsylvania, the Heinz History Center, Messiah  
19 College, the Chester County Historical Society, the Bucks County  
20 Historical Society, the East Petersburg Lions Club and the  
21 National Archives Mid-Atlantic Region; and

22 WHEREAS, The National History Day program is a 2011 recipient  
23 of the National Medal for the Humanities and is endorsed by the  
24 American Association for State and Local History, the American  
25 Historical Association, the Federation of State Humanities  
26 Councils, the National Association of Secondary School  
27 Principals, the National Center for History in the Schools, the  
28 National Council for History Education, the National Council for  
29 the Social Studies, the Organization of American Historians and  
30 the Society of American Archivists; and

1       WHEREAS, A 2010 study by Rockman, et al, shows that National  
2 History Day students outperform their peers on standardized  
3 achievement tests, are better writers, develop critical thinking  
4 skills and learn 21st century skills; and

5       WHEREAS, Students who participate in National History Day in  
6 Pennsylvania are better prepared for college and careers;  
7 therefore be it

8       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
9 Saturday, May 4, 2013, as "National History Day in Pennsylvania"  
10 and encourage students, teachers and other citizens of this  
11 Commonwealth to participate in the National History Day in  
12 Pennsylvania program.