

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 443 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY ROSS, KIRKLAND, BARRAR, LAWRENCE, CUTLER, SAYLOR, R. MILLER, MOUL, ROCK, METZGAR, MAHONEY, SNYDER, SONNEY, BOBACK, HENNESSEY, RAPP, AUMENT, KORTZ, DONATUCCI, C. HARRIS, DIGIROLAMO, STERN, CORBIN, FREEMAN, COHEN, WATSON, READSHAW, MILLARD, MIRABITO, SWANGER, HARHART, EVERETT, MAJOR, MILNE, MARSICO, FLECK, SABATINA, BENNINGHOFF, GINGRICH, CALTAGIRONE, QUINN, PAINTER, DENLINGER, DAY AND HEFFLEY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the beginning of  
 2 astronomer Charles Mason's and surveyor Jeremiah Dixon's  
 3 project known as the Mason-Dixon Line.

4 WHEREAS, The Mason-Dixon Line was surveyed between 1763 and  
 5 1767 by astronomer Charles Mason and surveyor Jeremiah Dixon in  
 6 the resolution of a border dispute going back to 1681 between  
 7 Pennsylvania and Maryland; and

8 WHEREAS, The dispute erupted in violence between settlers  
 9 claiming various loyalties to Maryland and Pennsylvania,  
 10 resulting in actual bloodshed in the conflict known as Cresap's  
 11 War of the 1730s; and

12 WHEREAS, Starting in November 1763, in Newlin Township,  
 13 Chester County, commanded by the King of England, George III,  
 14 Mason and Dixon determined latitude and longitude from the stars  
 15 and began chaining the line through extreme wilderness and

1 weather to solve the land disputes between the Penn and Calvert  
2 families; and

3 WHEREAS, Across the southern boundary of this Commonwealth,  
4 original milestones and crownstones were set to mark Mason and  
5 Dixon's journey until coming to Dunkard Creek, where the Chief  
6 of the Six Nations would not permit them to travel further,  
7 ending their survey on October 9, 1767; and

8 WHEREAS, Mason and Dixon are admired today by surveyors for  
9 the accuracy of their work, given the instruments of the time  
10 and their dedication and bravery while cutting their way through  
11 untamed wilderness and facing incredible challenges and  
12 hardships; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the  
14 250th anniversary of the beginning of astronomer Charles Mason's  
15 and surveyor Jeremiah Dixon's project known as the Mason-Dixon  
16 Line.