
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 497 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 17, 2015, as "Rhythm Sweet & Hot Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The arts play an important role in education, in
4 reduction of juvenile crime, in economic development, tourism,
5 quality of life and community revitalization; and

6 WHEREAS, Rhythm Sweet & Hot is a musical variety program,
7 heard on WESA 90.5 in Pittsburgh, that entertains audiences by
8 capturing the essence of musical culture from the 1920s to the
9 1940s; and

10 WHEREAS, The program is celebrating over 30 years on air.
11 Started in 1981 by Ken Crawford, a native of Crafton,
12 Pennsylvania, and Mike Plaskett, the show is an opportunity for
13 listeners to hear the well-known, big names of swing and also to
14 discover the music of nonjazzy "sweet" bands, few of whose
15 recordings could be found in music stores; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Crawford was well known in music circles for his
17 vast collection of original records and his many acquaintances
18 among swing musicians. Mr. Crawford frequently provided his

1 copies of rare records to record companies for inclusion in
2 vinyl releases; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Plaskett had worked in the promotion departments
4 at KDKA and WJAS in the 1960s. He also hosted a show for several
5 years on WNUF, in those days a big band station in Millvale; and

6 WHEREAS, The two friends joined forces to share their common
7 love for big band and swing. In 1982, the program moved to WDUQ,
8 broadcast from Duquesne University and remained there until
9 2011, when the station was sold; and

10 WHEREAS, Dale Abraham was a producer for the program in the
11 late 1990s and later took over the cohost spot after Ken
12 Crawford's passing in 2006; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, Mike Plaskett and Dale Abraham broadcast the
14 program live every Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m.; and

15 WHEREAS, The show appeals to listeners both young and old who
16 appreciate the timelessness of the music which many consider the
17 greatest period in American entertainment; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October
19 17, 2015, as "Rhythm Sweet & Hot Day" in Pennsylvania.