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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 556 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY DEAN, MOUL, TALLMAN, NEILSON, V. BROWN, THOMAS, MIRABITO, SCHLOSSBERG, TOEPEL, CAUSER, COHEN, HENNESSEY, O'NEILL, DAVIS, HAGGERTY, CALTAGIRONE, PARKER, MCCARTER, MCGEEHAN, PICKETT, LUCAS, CUTLER, AUMENT, SAMUELSON, O'BRIEN, LONGIETTI, MALONEY, KILLION, MCNEILL, EVERETT, ROZZI, SWANGER, BENNINGHOFF, COX, READSHAW, DIGIROLAMO, P. DALEY, KAVULICH, SCHREIBER, BROOKS, MOLCHANY, DONATUCCI, SANKEY, PAINTER, SONNEY, REGAN, KORTZ, KIM, CLYMER, BARRAR, ROSS, GRELL, FREEMAN, SANTARSIERO, KOTIK, ADOLPH, MURT, D. COSTA, GIBBONS, GODSHALL, C. HARRIS, GROVE, MARSICO, WATSON, SABATINA, NEUMAN, BRIGGS, STURLA, FRANKEL, YOUNGBLOOD, KINSEY, VITALI, KIRKLAND, STEVENSON, BROWNLEE, MULLERY, REED, SAINATO, HARHAI, MARKOSEK, MAHONEY, MATZIE, KAUFFMAN, DENLINGER, PASHINSKI, MAJOR AND GINGRICH, NOVEMBER 18, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
NOVEMBER 18, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the delivery of the  
2 Gettysburg Address by President Abraham Lincoln.

3 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg  
4 Address on November 19, 1863, officially dedicating the  
5 Soldiers' National Cemetery on the grounds where the Battle of  
6 Gettysburg took place; and

7 WHEREAS, The Battle of Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of  
8 the Civil War with 23,000 Union casualties and 28,000  
9 Confederate casualties; and

10 WHEREAS, The Battle of Gettysburg turned the Civil War in the  
11 Union's favor; and

1       WHEREAS, Approximately 15,000 people gathered to hear  
2 President Lincoln's "dedicatory remarks" and famed orator Edward  
3 Everett's "oration"; and

4       WHEREAS, Mr. Everett eloquently spoke for two hours, but  
5 President Lincoln's speech lasted for approximately two minutes;  
6 and

7       WHEREAS, However, in his 272 word speech, President Lincoln  
8 captured the very essence of the meaning of the Battle of  
9 Gettysburg and the Civil War as a whole; and

10       WHEREAS, Beginning with the iconic phrase "Four score and  
11 seven years ago," which referred to the Declaration of  
12 Independence, President Lincoln examined the founding principles  
13 of the United States in the context of the Civil War; and

14       WHEREAS, For the first time in American history, focus was  
15 placed on the Declaration of Independence, as opposed to the  
16 Constitution, as evidence of the founders' intent; and

17       WHEREAS, The Gettysburg Address memorialized the sacrifices  
18 of those who gave their lives at Gettysburg and extolled virtues  
19 of America's representative democracy for the listeners to  
20 ensure that "government of the people, by the people, for the  
21 people, shall not perish from the earth"; and

22       WHEREAS, In the Gettysburg Address, President Lincoln  
23 redefined the Civil War as a struggle not just for the  
24 preservation of the Union, but also for the principle of human  
25 equality; and

26       WHEREAS, The Gettysburg Address continues to guide the  
27 overarching principles of American government today; therefore  
28 be it

29       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the  
30 150th anniversary of the delivery of the Gettysburg Address by

1 President Abraham Lincoln.