

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 209 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, MURT, HELM, BENNINGHOFF, DONATUCCI, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, LONGIETTI, CORBIN, BOBACK, VEREB, SCHREIBER, HARHART, SCHWEYER, THOMAS, READSHAW, KIRKLAND, ROSS, MILLARD, HENNESSEY, DUSH, SONNEY, ROZZI, SACCONI, REED, CALTAGIRONE, KAUFFMAN, METCALFE, COHEN, D. COSTA, KILLION, MUSTIO, KIM, FARINA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, C. PARKER, DIGIROLAMO, STAATS, MAJOR, PICKETT, WARD, CAUSER, TOEPEL, MOUL, MARSICO, CUTLER, A. HARRIS, KNOWLES, ELLIS, OBERLANDER, SAYLOR, YOUNGBLOOD, O'NEILL, GRELL, GODSHALL, PEIFER, GIBBONS, EVERETT, GROVE, WATSON, COX, SABATINA, GINGRICH, WHEELAND, MAHONEY, ZIMMERMAN, BRADFORD, GILLEN AND GABLER, MARCH 31, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 31, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 150th anniversary of President Abraham
 2 Lincoln's death on April 15, 1865, and noting his
 3 distinguished life of public service and indelible leadership
 4 during an era of great national crisis.

5 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, at
 6 Sinking Spring Farm, a 300-acre farm with a one-room cabin near
 7 Hodgenville, Kentucky; and

8 WHEREAS, A son of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham
 9 Lincoln was the first president born in a log cabin and the
 10 first president born outside of the original 13 states; and

11 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln's family occupied other farms in
 12 Kentucky and southern Indiana during his youth; and

13 WHEREAS, Recalling his early life on the western frontier,
 14 Abraham Lincoln wrote in 1832: "I was born and have ever

1 remained in the most humble walks of life"; and

2 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln pursued his reverence for the law in
3 New Salem and Springfield, Illinois, and briefly volunteered
4 with the Illinois militia; and

5 WHEREAS, Largely self-taught, Abraham Lincoln studied books
6 lent by a Springfield attorney; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1834 Abraham Lincoln realized his early political
8 goals with his election to the Illinois House of
9 Representatives; and

10 WHEREAS, On September 9, 1836, Illinois Supreme Court
11 justices issued Abraham Lincoln a license to practice law in
12 Illinois state courts; and

13 WHEREAS, On March 1, 1837, having taken an oath before the
14 clerk of the Illinois Supreme Court, Abraham Lincoln was
15 formally admitted to the Court's list of practicing attorneys;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln further pursued his legal career as
18 a circuit-riding attorney with the Eighth Judicial Circuit in
19 central Illinois; and

20 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln married Mary Ann Todd on November 4,
21 1842, at a private home in Springfield; and

22 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was elected to four terms with the
23 Illinois General Assembly; and

24 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln later won election to the 30th
25 Congress as a member of the United States House of
26 Representatives; and

27 WHEREAS, By the mid-1850s, Abraham Lincoln was recognized as
28 one of the most highly respected trial lawyers in Illinois; and

29 WHEREAS, In 1858 a series of seven debates between Abraham
30 Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas convened in towns throughout

1 Illinois as part of the 1858 campaign for a United States Senate
2 seat; and

3 WHEREAS, Those debates drew widespread attention to critical
4 issues dividing our nation, including slavery, emancipation and
5 popular sovereignty; and

6 WHEREAS, While Abraham Lincoln was defeated in that election,
7 he was gaining national prominence as a party leader and
8 campaigner for other political figures; and

9 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln took the oath of
10 office as 16th President of the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, In his first inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln
12 appealed to seceding states to rejoin the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, on moral and legal grounds, opposed
14 compromise with those states; and

15 WHEREAS, Preservation of the United States as one nation was
16 Abraham Lincoln's greatest duty as president of the nation,
17 leader of his party and commander-in-chief during years of civil
18 war; and

19 WHEREAS, In January 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued the
20 Emancipation Proclamation, conferring freedom on all persons
21 held as slaves within the Confederacy; and

22 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, given in the
23 autumn of 1863 in the aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg,
24 directly championed national unity and the equality and dignity
25 of all individuals; and

26 WHEREAS, In February 1865, Abraham Lincoln signed a joint
27 resolution proposing the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of
28 the United States to abolish slavery and involuntary servitude
29 in the reconstructed union; and

30 WHEREAS, The 13th Amendment, duly ratified at the end of

1 1865, is the only ratified amendment having a presidential
2 signature; and

3 WHEREAS, On April 14, 1865, days after the surrender which
4 effectively ended Civil War hostilities, a Confederate
5 sympathizer shot Abraham Lincoln; and

6 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was mortally wounded while attending
7 a performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in
8 Washington, DC; and

9 WHEREAS, The nation fell into mourning when the President
10 died on April 15, 1865; and

11 WHEREAS, Mourners paid their respects in the East Wing of the
12 White House and later the United States Capitol Rotunda; and

13 WHEREAS, During the funeral procession to the Capitol, it was
14 reported that every "window, housetop, balcony and every inch of
15 the sidewalks on either side was densely crowded with a mournful
16 throng to pay homage to departed worth"; and

17 WHEREAS, The Lincoln funeral train, reaching tens of millions
18 of mourners along its route from Washington, DC, to Springfield,
19 Illinois, followed the funeral procession and observance held in
20 the Capitol; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
22 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's death on April
23 15, 1865, and note his distinguished life of public service and
24 indelible leadership during an era of great national crisis.