
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1003 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, HENNESSEY, MUNDY, BENNINGHOFF, B. BOYLE,
MURT, LONGIETTI, WATSON, LUCAS, V. BROWN, MIRABITO, MILLARD,
DONATUCCI, DIGIROLAMO, DAVIS, KINSEY, SONNEY, CALTAGIRONE,
READSHAW, KIRKLAND, MAJOR, CLYMER, HARHART, GOODMAN, MARSICO,
ROCK, McNEILL AND MAHONEY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 24, 2014, as "Mercy Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, Catherine McAuley, a Catholic laywoman in Dublin,
3 Ireland, spent her inheritance to open the first House of Mercy
4 September 24, 1827, as a place to offer shelter and education to
5 impoverished girls. The archbishop urged her to make it a
6 religious congregation, and three years later she and two others
7 became the first Sisters of Mercy; and

8 WHEREAS, After McAuley's death, her new order of sisters had
9 established 14 foundations throughout Ireland and England. The
10 sisters came to America at the behest of the Bishop of
11 Pittsburgh in 1843, and within 11 years they had schools and
12 hospitals from New York City to San Francisco; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1875 they came to the Wyoming Valley, setting up
14 a school in Wilkes-Barre. They decided to start the area's first
15 four-year college for women and purchased 100 acres in 1914, but

1 were stalled from opening until September 1924, with 37
2 students; and

3 WHEREAS, This year's Mercy Day includes the dedication of a
4 green area outside Mercy Hall as "Founders Circle." While the
5 school has expanded, gone co-ed and made the switch from college
6 to university, the presence of the Sisters of Mercy remains, and
7 the dedication will be followed by a Catholic Mass; therefore be
8 it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
10 September 24, 2014, as "Mercy Day" in Pennsylvania.