

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 139 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, SAMUELSON, ROAE, JAMES, CAUSER, DUSH, SONNEY, REED, OBERLANDER, BAKER, PICKETT, HARHART, ROZZI, REESE, HENNESSEY, DIGIROLAMO, KIRKLAND, MURT, VEREB, WHEELAND, MILLARD, KAUFFMAN, BARRAR, McNEILL, ROSS, DIAMOND, TALLMAN, KINSEY, READSHAW, D. COSTA, COHEN, MAJOR, GINGRICH, MCGINNIS, HEFFLEY, GIBBONS AND WATSON, MARCH 3, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 3, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring petroleum industry pioneer Edwin Laurentine Drake upon
2 the 195th anniversary of his birth.

3 WHEREAS, Edwin Laurentine Drake, also known as Colonel Drake,
4 was born March 29, 1819, in Greenville, New York; and

5 WHEREAS, Colonel Drake spent the early parts of his life
6 working for the railroads; and

7 WHEREAS, In the late 1850s, Colonel Drake was hired as an
8 agent for Seneca Oil Company to extract oil in Titusville; and

9 WHEREAS, In May 1858, Colonel Drake and his family arrived in
10 Titusville and he began his attempts to drill for oil; and

11 WHEREAS, At the time, drilling was a radical concept since
12 the primary method for collecting oil was ground collection; and

13 WHEREAS, Colonel Drake pioneered a new method for producing
14 oil from the ground by using piping to prevent borehole
15 collapse, allowing the drill to penetrate farther into the

1 ground; and

2 WHEREAS, On August 27, 1859, after the drill bit reached a
3 total depth of 69.5 feet, Colonel Drake and his team stopped
4 work for the weekend; and

5 WHEREAS, The next day, Colonel Drake's driller, Billy Smith,
6 visited the site to prepare for the next workday and was
7 surprised to see crude oil floating on top of the water that
8 filled the pipe; and

9 WHEREAS, Billy Smith summoned Colonel Drake to the site, and
10 oil was brought to the surface with a hand pitcher pump and
11 collected in a bathtub; and

12 WHEREAS, Colonel Drake's success in extracting oil prompted
13 the first great wave of investment and additional drilling that
14 established petroleum as a major industry; and

15 WHEREAS, After going on to work as an oil commission merchant
16 and serving as a justice of the peace, Colonel Drake eventually
17 retired with his family to Vermont; and

18 WHEREAS, After he became disabled by neuralgia, Colonel Drake
19 relocated his family to Bethlehem in 1870; and

20 WHEREAS, Three years later, the General Assembly granted
21 Colonel Drake a pension of \$3,000 per year in recognition of his
22 work; and

23 WHEREAS, Colonel Drake died on November 8, 1880, and is
24 buried in Titusville; and

25 WHEREAS, Colonel Drake's efforts in extracting oil changed
26 the world and helped to create the modern-day oil industry;
27 therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor petroleum
29 industry pioneer Edwin Laurentine Drake upon the 195th
30 anniversary of his birth.