
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 162 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY B. BOYLE, YOUNGBLOOD, COHEN, CLAY, K. BOYLE,
TOEPEL, BROWNLEE, KAVULICH, V. BROWN, MUSTIO, VEREB, MOUL,
BROOKS, HESS, MOLCHANY, MILLARD, RAVENSTAHL, LONGIETTI,
MALONEY, HAHN, SONNEY, HENNESSEY, BOBACK, READSHAW, CUTLER,
DIGIROLAMO, SNYDER, SCHLOSSBERG, THOMAS, PICKETT, DAVIS,
R. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, GIBBONS, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, ROSS, WATSON,
SAINATO, BARRAR, DELOZIER, EVERETT, AUMENT, RAPP, KORTZ,
BISHOP, O'BRIEN, WATERS, MAHONEY, NEILSON, HARHAI, MAJOR,
DeLUCA, D. COSTA, DEASY, SABATINA, DENLINGER, M. K. KELLER,
FRANKEL, GINGRICH, MICOZZIE, MARSICO, GRELL, PAINTER, KINSEY
AND GROVE, MARCH 15, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 15, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2013 as "National Women's History
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, After the American Revolution, the notion of
4 education as a safeguard for democracy created opportunities for
5 girls to gain only a basic education; and

6 WHEREAS, Pioneers of secondary education for young women
7 faced arguments from physicians and others who claimed either
8 that females were incapable of intellectual development equal to
9 men or that they would be harmed by striving for it; and

10 WHEREAS, American women of every race, class and ethnic
11 background have made historic contributions to the growth and
12 strength of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded
13 ways; and

1 WHEREAS, American women have been leaders, not only in
2 securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but
3 also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement,
4 the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and
5 other movements, especially the peace movement, which help
6 create a fair and just society for all; and

7 WHEREAS, Generations of women throughout American history
8 have used their intelligence, imagination, sense of wonder and
9 tenacity to make extraordinary contributions to the science,
10 technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields; and

11 WHEREAS, Despite these contributions, the role of American
12 women in history has been consistently overlooked and
13 undervalued in the literature, teaching and study of American
14 history; and

15 WHEREAS, Many organizations and programs are working to
16 promote women's and girls' interest and participation in STEM
17 and are actively working to change the face of STEM, as women
18 remain largely underrepresented in many STEM professions and
19 academic programs; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell was the first fully
21 accredited female doctor in the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, The first medical school for women was founded by
23 Elizabeth Blackwell and her sister, Emily, resulting in greater
24 acceptance of female physicians, more opportunities for
25 meaningful work for American women and stricter standards for
26 medical schools as a whole; and

27 WHEREAS, Julia Morgan was the first woman architect licensed
28 in California in 1904; and

29 WHEREAS, Julia Morgan designed over 700 buildings in
30 California and many of her projects, including designing

1 numerous YWCA buildings and facilities at Mills (Women's)
2 College, sought to advance opportunities for women; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1964, Hattie Alexander became the first woman
4 elected president of the American Pediatric Society; and

5 WHEREAS, Patricia Bath broke ground for both women and
6 African Americans in medicine and ophthalmology, including being
7 the first woman to chair an ophthalmology residency program in
8 the United States in 1983 and being the first African-American
9 woman doctor to receive a patent for a medical purpose; and

10 WHEREAS, Rita Colwell, Ph.D., served as the first woman
11 Director of the National Science Foundation (1998-2004), where
12 she exemplified the importance of STEM education by her
13 leadership in K-12 STEM education, graduate STEM education and
14 the increased participation of women and minorities in science
15 and engineering; and

16 WHEREAS, The commitment of women to educational equality
17 throughout the entirety of academia has also resulted in the
18 ascension of women in politics and government; and

19 WHEREAS, Crystal Bird Fauset, who helped establish the
20 Swarthmore College Institute of Race Relations, became the first
21 African-American woman to be elected to the Pennsylvania House
22 of Representatives, at the time representing Philadelphia's 18th
23 Legislative District; and

24 WHEREAS, Currently, 76 women hold statewide elective
25 executive offices nationwide; and

26 WHEREAS, Currently, 1,769 women hold seats in state
27 legislatures nationwide; and

28 WHEREAS, The year 2013 marks the 33rd anniversary of the
29 National Women's History Project; and

30 WHEREAS, The National Women's History Project began with a

1 proclamation by President Jimmy Carter that declared the week of
2 March 8, 1980, as the first "National Women's History Week"; and

3 WHEREAS, The recognition of March as "Women's History Month"
4 highlights the numerous contributions of women across this
5 Commonwealth and our nation who helped create a fair and just
6 society for all people; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize March
8 2013 as "National Women's History Month" in Pennsylvania and
9 invite the women, men and children of this Commonwealth to
10 continue to explore the critical economic, cultural and social
11 roles women played and continue to play in every sphere of life
12 in this Commonwealth and the nation by constituting a
13 significant portion of the labor force working inside and
14 outside the home, to explore the contributions of women to help
15 empower the entire Commonwealth and the nation and to celebrate
16 "National Women's History Month" in 2013 with the theme "Women
17 Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in
18 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics."