

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 411 Session of  
2015

---

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, ROZZI, KIRKLAND, DAVIS, BISHOP, MILLARD,  
MULLERY, SCHLOSSBERG, COHEN, MACKENZIE, READSHAW, FREEMAN,  
ROEBUCK, C. PARKER, MOUL, SIMS, SCHREIBER, MURT, BOYLE,  
DERMODY, KAUFER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, HENNESSEY, BARRAR,  
J. HARRIS, DRISCOLL, KINSEY, DAVIDSON, O'BRIEN, ACOSTA,  
O'NEILL, BAKER, PASHINSKI, W. KELLER, IRVIN, BIZZARRO AND  
MAHONEY, JUNE 25, 2015

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 25, 2015

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the nine people who lost their lives during the mass  
2 shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in  
3 Charleston, South Carolina, on June 17, 2015.

4 WHEREAS, The Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church,  
5 often referred to as "Mother Emanuel," was founded in 1816 and  
6 is the oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in the southern  
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, The 199-year-old church has survived numerous  
9 attacks throughout the church's existence, including laws  
10 barring black worship, a mob burning down the church's original  
11 edifice and the killing of the founder and dozens of others for  
12 organizing a slave revolt; and

13 WHEREAS, A shooting occurred at the church on the evening of  
14 June 17, 2015, when an armed individual opened fire on a Bible  
15 study group, ultimately killing nine members of the church's

1 congregation; and

2 WHEREAS, The victims, who met regularly to read and discuss  
3 passages from the Bible, openly welcomed the alleged shooter to  
4 join them for Bible study when he entered the church; and

5 WHEREAS, Some of the victims were killed while bravely  
6 protecting fellow churchgoers; and

7 WHEREAS, In the same spirit of courage and unity, "Mother  
8 Emanuel" opened its doors for its regular Sunday service, just  
9 four days after the tragic shooting; and

10 WHEREAS, The suspected gunman's reported attempt to start a  
11 race war has failed miserably, as churchgoers of all colors and  
12 creeds sat together inside "Mother Emanuel" and called for peace  
13 and unity; and

14 WHEREAS, The nine victims were:

15 Reverend DePayne Middleton-Doctor, 49;

16 Cynthia Hurd, 54;

17 Susie Jackson, 87;

18 Ethel Lance, 70;

19 Reverend Clementa Pinckney, 41;

20 Tywanza Sanders, 26;

21 Reverend Daniel L. Simmons, Sr., 74;

22 Reverend Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, 45;

23 Myra Thompson, 59;

24 therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the nine  
26 people who lost their lives during the mass shooting at the  
27 Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South  
28 Carolina, on June 17, 2015; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives extend its  
30 deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims

1 in their time of mourning.