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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 731 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY PAINTER, HENNESSEY, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLOSSBERG,  
LUCAS, O'BRIEN, VEREB, BISHOP, MILLARD, DIGIROLAMO,  
YOUNGBLOOD, FREEMAN, KORTZ, THOMAS, V. BROWN, MCNEILL,  
GOODMAN, SWANGER, COHEN, D. COSTA, GINGRICH, FRANKEL,  
MAHONEY, MURT, KINSEY, CLYMER AND DENLINGER, MARCH 20, 2014

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 20, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Indian Citizen Act.

2 WHEREAS, On June 2, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed  
3 the Indian Citizen Act; and

4 WHEREAS, Prior to the passage of the 1924 act, Native  
5 Americans that did not receive citizenship through treaties, or  
6 other laws, specifically women, had acquired citizenship through  
7 marriage; and

8 WHEREAS, Prior to the Civil War, citizenship was often  
9 limited to Native Americans of one-half or less Indian blood;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The Dawes Act of 1887, otherwise known as the  
12 General Allotment Act, authorized the President of the United  
13 States to survey American Indian tribal land and divide it into  
14 allotments for individual Native Americans, establishing  
15 individual ownership of lands as opposed to communal property,

1 which Native American tribes practiced; and

2 WHEREAS, The intent of the Dawes Act was to convey individual  
3 property rights to tribe members, thus compelling tax payments  
4 and indirectly granting citizenship; and

5 WHEREAS, The Curtis Act of 1898, officially titled the Act  
6 for the Protection of the People of Indian Territory, amended  
7 the Dawes Act to include the five Civilized Tribes - the  
8 Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muskogee, Cherokee and Seminole in the  
9 allotment process; and

10 WHEREAS, On November 6, 1919, Congress enacted the American  
11 Indian Citizenship Act, which authorized American Indian  
12 veterans of World War I who wanted to become American citizens  
13 to apply for and be granted citizenship, but that act did not  
14 grant automatic citizenship; and

15 WHEREAS, On June 2, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed  
16 The Indian Citizen Act of 1924 which granted citizenship to  
17 approximately 125,000 of the 300,000 indigenous people in the  
18 United States; and

19 WHEREAS, Under the act, indigenous people did not have to  
20 apply for citizenship, nor did they have to give up their tribal  
21 citizenship to become a United States citizen, thus granting  
22 dual citizenship to all Native Americans; and

23 WHEREAS, June 2, 2014, marks the 90th anniversary of the  
24 signing of the Indian Citizen Act; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate  
26 passage of the Indian Citizen Act of 1924 and the 90th  
27 anniversary of its enactment.