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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 74 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY TOBASH, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 8, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Porter Tunnel Mine  
2 Disaster on March 1, 2017.

3 WHEREAS, On March 1, 1977, the Porter Tunnel Mine of the  
4 Kocher Coal Company was flooded by millions of gallons of water;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, At approximately 11:00 a.m. a thud was heard and one  
7 minute later a funnel shaped tornado of water flowed into the  
8 West Skidmore South Dip conveyor gangway section of the Porter  
9 Tunnel Mine; and

10 WHEREAS, The rush of water came from an abandoned water-  
11 filled mine site that had been breached; and

12 WHEREAS, Six miners in the effected section of the mine were  
13 able to escape and the other 65 miners working in other sections  
14 of the mine traveled both the intake and return air escapeways  
15 to reach the surface; and

16 WHEREAS, The tragic event, which came to be known as the  
17 Porter Tunnel Mine Disaster, killed nine men and left one  
18 entrapped, who was rescued six days later; and

1       WHEREAS, The victims of the Porter Tunnel Mine Disaster were  
2 Timothy L. Grose, Ronald Herb, Gary L. Klinger, Mark Kroh,  
3 Dennis L. Morgan, John Moyer, Ralph Renninger, Philip Sabatino  
4 and Donald E. Shoffler; and

5       WHEREAS, Three other miners who escaped were also injured;  
6 and

7       WHEREAS, The Porter Tunnel Mine Disaster was the worst  
8 Schuylkill County mining disaster since 1943; therefore be it

9       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
10 40th anniversary of the Porter Tunnel Mine Disaster on March 1,  
11 2017.