
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 800 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY FARRY, APRIL 28, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 28, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Dr. Sheldon Hackney for his commitment and
2 service to education as president of the University of
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Sheldon Hackney was born in Birmingham, Alabama;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Hackney earned a bachelor's degree from
7 Vanderbilt University on a Navy ROTC scholarship in 1955; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Hackney served as an ensign and lieutenant in
9 the United States Navy from 1956 to 1959 and attended the United
10 States Naval Academy from 1959 to 1961; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1966 Dr. Hackney earned a master's degree and
12 Ph.D. in American History from Yale University; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Hackney was a professor at Princeton University
14 from 1965 to 1975 and served as Princeton's Provost from 1972 to
15 1975; and

16 WHEREAS, While at Princeton University, Dr. Hackney
17 established, and became the director of, the Upward Bound
18 Program for disadvantaged high school students, which became a

1 model for similar programs throughout the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Hackney served as the 12th president of Tulane
3 University from 1975 to 1980 and during his tenure implemented
4 salary increases, established the chair of Judeo-Christian
5 Studies and achieved a balanced budget; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Hackney was elected by the University of
7 Pennsylvania Trustees as president of the university in October
8 of 1980; and

9 WHEREAS, While President of the University of Pennsylvania,
10 Dr. Hackney oversaw the university's first billion-dollar
11 fundraising campaign, collecting \$1.33 billion and increased the
12 university's endowments from \$160 million to \$1 billion; and

13 WHEREAS, During Dr. Hackney's tenure, minority enrollment at
14 the University of Pennsylvania increased from 13% to 30%; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Hackney was nominated by President Bill Clinton
16 to serve as chairman of the National Endowment for the
17 Humanities, and went on to serve as its chairman from 1993 to
18 1997; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Hackney was an award-winning scholar of southern
20 history and won numerous awards for his books and articles
21 including the Albert J. Beveridge Award of the American
22 Historical Association for best book in American history in
23 1969, the Sydnor Price Award by the Southern Historical
24 Association, and the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching
25 in 2001; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Hackney was known for his love of American
27 history, respect for students and challenging approach to
28 historical questions; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Hackney retired from teaching as the David Boies
30 Professor of History Emeritus; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Hackney passed away on September 12, 2013, and
2 is survived by his wife, his son and daughter and grandchildren;
3 therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
5 and work of Dr. Sheldon Hackney for his commitment to education
6 and service to the University of Pennsylvania and extend
7 condolences to his family for their loss.