

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 814 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, SACCONI, P. COSTA, LUCAS, MIRABITO, KIRKLAND, NEILSON, BISHOP, COHEN, READSHAW, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD, KINSEY, SONNEY, CALTAGIRONE, REED, MATZIE, KOTIK, D. COSTA, ENGLISH, MCNEILL, THOMAS, BROWNLEE, SNYDER, RAVENSTAHL, YOUNGBLOOD, GODSHALL, ROSS, MARSHALL, MARSICO, PAINTER, HARHAI, MAHONEY, P. DALEY, CLYMER, FLECK, CLAY, WHITE, GINGRICH, DENLINGER, GRELL, GIBBONS, PASHINSKI, WATSON, ROEBUCK, MURT, KIM, MCCARTER, KORTZ, ROCK, DeLUCA AND BRADFORD, APRIL 29, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 29, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 60th anniversary of WQED Pittsburgh, the
2 nation's first community-supported television station.

3 WHEREAS, WQED went live for the first time on April 1, 1954,
4 broadcasting on a previously unused television station in
5 Pittsburgh - VHF Channel 13; and

6 WHEREAS, A year earlier, in April 1953, the station was
7 incorporated, becoming the first community-supported television
8 station in the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, WQED's call letters have significant meaning - "W,"
10 the mandatory designation for the region and "QED" for the Latin
11 "Quod erat demonstrandum," meaning "that which was to be
12 demonstrated"; and

13 WHEREAS, On Monday, April 5, 1954, Fred Rogers and his
14 program titled "Children's Corner" began to appear on WQED,

1 eventually becoming "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" to millions of
2 children throughout the country; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1955, WQED inaugurated instructional programs for
4 children in Pittsburgh schools - the first station in the
5 country to telecast classes to elementary school students; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the years, WQED has branched out to several
7 different endeavors; and

8 WHEREAS, WQEX-TV/Channel 16 debuted on September 14, 1959,
9 broadcasting highly specialized programs to meet the needs of
10 select audiences; and

11 WHEREAS, Just over a decade later, WQED began its successful
12 foray into print, establishing Pittsburgh Magazine on July 1,
13 1970; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1973, Classical WQED-FM 89.3 was founded as the
15 region's only 24-hour classical radio station; and

16 WHEREAS, Black Horizons is the longest running series for the
17 African-American audience in the country, premiering on WQED in
18 April 1968; and

19 WHEREAS, Today, WQED is an educational public media giant
20 with four television programming streams, three radio stations,
21 and serves as host to numerous national and local television and
22 radio productions; and

23 WHEREAS, WQED's educational programs for children continue to
24 offer free and highly effective educational tools that can make
25 dramatic differences in how children perform and achieve; and

26 WHEREAS, WQED's local production schedule is truly impressive
27 including seven locally produced programs every Monday through
28 Saturday evening; and

29 WHEREAS, WQED currently reaches residents of southwestern
30 Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia and western

1 Maryland; and

2 WHEREAS, In recognition of its outstanding work in the field
3 of media, WQED has been awarded numerous awards and honors,
4 including 73 Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards (including two for Station
5 Excellence), 61 national Emmy Awards, an Academy Award, 10
6 Peabody Awards, 5 DuPont/Columbia batons, 10 Gabriel Awards, 27
7 CINE Golden Eagle Awards, 1 Edward R. Murrow Award, 95 Golden
8 Quill Awards, 23 awards from the Pennsylvania Association of
9 Broadcasters (PAB) and 13 Telly Awards; and

10 WHEREAS, WQED continues to be one of the busiest producers of
11 local programming in the entire Public Broadcasting Service
12 (PBS) system; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, WQED has partnered with
14 hundreds of local community organizations in the Pittsburgh
15 region toward improvements in education, arts and culture,
16 community health, economics and important local issues through
17 its form of engaging civic journalism; and

18 WHEREAS, All of this is in keeping with the organization's
19 mission - changing lives by creating and sharing outstanding
20 public media that educates, entertains and inspires; therefore
21 be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
23 60th anniversary of WQED and call attention to the great work
24 WQED Multimedia continues to do on behalf of Western
25 Pennsylvania.