

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 862 Session of  
2014

---

INTRODUCED BY P. COSTA, BOBACK, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,  
D. COSTA, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FLECK, FRANKEL,  
GIBBONS, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRELL, GROVE, HEFFLEY,  
HELM, HENNESSEY, JAMES, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA,  
LONGIETTI, LUCAS, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MATZIE, McCARTER,  
McNEILL, MILLARD, D. MILLER, MIRABITO, MOLCHANY, MURT,  
NEILSON, O'NEILL, QUINN, READSHAW, ROSS, SACCONI, STERN,  
THOMAS, VEREB AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 19, 2014

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 19, 2014

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the legacy and achievements of former State  
2 Representative Michael H. Kennedy.

3 WHEREAS, Michael H. Kennedy was born on January 14, 1872, and  
4 raised in Butler, Butler County, and attended the local public  
5 schools; and

6 WHEREAS, At 17 years of age, Kennedy learned the trade of  
7 plumbing and gas fitting, the profession he engaged in until his  
8 election to the House of Representatives; and

9 WHEREAS, In November 1906, he won election to the House of  
10 Representatives serving Lawrenceville; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1907, State Representative Kennedy maneuvered a  
12 celebrated piece of legislation through the Legislature to avoid  
13 the demolition of a Revolutionary War era historical site in  
14 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and

1       WHEREAS, In the early 1900s, the Pennsylvania Railroad looked  
2 to build a track junction at the Point in Pittsburgh using  
3 eminent domain; the same site as Fort Pitt, once the largest  
4 British fort in North America; and

5       WHEREAS, State Representative Kennedy, realizing the  
6 historical significance of the lone block house remaining at  
7 Fort Pitt, came to the aid of the Pittsburgh chapter of the  
8 Daughters of the American Revolution by sponsoring and guiding  
9 legislation that prohibited the use of eminent domain by  
10 corporations to seize or remove colonial or Revolutionary War  
11 period buildings; and

12       WHEREAS, Governor Edwin Stuart signed State Representative  
13 Kennedy's bill which became the act of May 10, 1907 (P.L.196,  
14 No.156), referred to as the "Historic Sites Act"; and

15       WHEREAS, Due to State Representative Kennedy's actions, many  
16 historically significant buildings and places, such as the Block  
17 House at Fort Pitt, Valley Forge and Independence Hall, were  
18 protected from being destroyed or moved; and

19       WHEREAS, In 2014, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the  
20 Fort Pitt Block House, a local treasure which many  
21 Pennsylvanians still enjoy; therefore be it

22       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
23 legacy and achievements of former State Representative Michael  
24 H. Kennedy, particularly for his efforts in saving historical  
25 sites for the continued enjoyment of this Commonwealth.