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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 954 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY RABB, ZABEL, OTTEN, DELLOSO, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD,  
HOWARD, SCHWEYER, SHUSTERMAN, GREEN, McCLINTON, CIRESI,  
KENYATTA, SANCHEZ, HARRIS AND LEE, AUGUST 6, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, AUGUST 6, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the removal of all Confederate monuments and statues in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, From April 12, 1861, to April 9, 1865, the Civil War  
4 was fought between the northern Union states and the southern  
5 Confederate states; and

6 WHEREAS, The Civil War was fought to determine whether this  
7 nation, established on the principle that all men were created  
8 with an equal right to liberty, would continue to exist as the  
9 largest slave holding country in the world; and

10 WHEREAS, By 1864, the goal of the Union became "total war,"  
11 where the new strategy meant destroying the entirety of the Old  
12 South and its institution of slavery; and

13 WHEREAS, The General Assembly voted on February 3, 1865, to  
14 ratify the 13th Amendment ending slavery in the United States;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, This ratification was 85 years after Pennsylvania  
17 instituted the gradual abolition of slavery; and

1       WHEREAS, On April 9, 1865, after being cut off from returning  
2 to the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, General Robert  
3 E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant, effectively  
4 ending the Civil War; and

5       WHEREAS, Following the end of the war, the first memorials  
6 built were commemorative markers that mourned lost soldiers and  
7 Confederate leaders such as General Robert E. Lee, former  
8 President of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis and General Thomas  
9 "Stonewall" Jackson; and

10       WHEREAS, The first major spike in the dedication of  
11 Confederate monuments and statues began in 1900 and lasted  
12 through the late 1920s when Southern states were enacting Jim  
13 Crow laws in an effort to disenfranchise African Americans and  
14 re-segregate society after several decades of integration that  
15 followed Reconstruction; and

16       WHEREAS, This was also a time where the nation was witnessing  
17 a strong revival of the Ku Klux Klan that was not only anti-  
18 Black, but stood against individuals of the Roman Catholic and  
19 Jewish faith, immigrants and organized labor; and

20       WHEREAS, The second major spike in the dedication of  
21 Confederate monuments and statues occurred between the mid-1950s  
22 and the late 1960s when the modern civil rights movement was  
23 becoming prevalent and began pushing back against segregation  
24 and discrimination; and

25       WHEREAS, The erection of Confederate monuments and statues  
26 eventually decreased, however, around 800 Confederate memorials  
27 are currently displayed on public property throughout the  
28 country; and

29       WHEREAS, The vast majority of these monuments can be found in  
30 the South, however, remaining statues are scattered throughout

1 the remainder of the country, including Pennsylvania; and

2 WHEREAS, Two monuments are located in McConnellsburg, in  
3 Fulton County, near the Pennsylvania-Maryland border; and

4 WHEREAS, One statue marks the location of the first  
5 Confederate soldiers to be killed on Pennsylvania soil, while  
6 the other marks the last Confederate camp north of the Mason-  
7 Dixon Line; and

8 WHEREAS, Another monument is located in Mechanicsburg, in  
9 Cumberland County, less than 10 miles from the Pennsylvania  
10 State Capitol; and

11 WHEREAS, The ten-foot obelisk sits outside of the Rupp House  
12 and commemorates General Albert Jenkins and his Confederate  
13 troops for their hostile occupation of the West Shore where they  
14 forced John Rupp and his family to flee their own home; and

15 WHEREAS, It is clear that the intent of these monuments was  
16 to elicit hostile messages during periods of progression for  
17 African Americans; and

18 WHEREAS, Public commemorative Confederate monuments and  
19 statues memorialize individuals that were on the wrong side of  
20 history and promote Confederacy ideals which comprise treason  
21 and traitors to this nation; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the removal  
23 of all Confederate monuments and statues in Pennsylvania.