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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 919 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, A. DAVIS, GAINEY, BURNS, HARKINS,  
ROTHMAN, GALLOWAY, KORTZ, SHUSTERMAN, HILL-EVANS, HARRIS,  
COX, CALTAGIRONE, DeLUCA, PETRARCA, MILLARD, VITALI,  
KIRKLAND, McCLINTON, SCHWEYER, CIRESI, DEASY, HOWARD,  
NEILSON, KINSEY, READSHAW AND DELLOSO, JUNE 23, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 23, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy and expressing condolences upon the  
2 passing of former State Representative William Russell  
3 Robinson.

4 WHEREAS, Known as an advocate for minority causes while still  
5 servicing the public, former State Representative William  
6 Russell Robinson passed away Tuesday, June 9, 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson was born February 5, 1942, and was a  
8 lifelong resident of Pittsburgh; and

9 WHEREAS, Upon graduating from Schenley High School, Mr.  
10 Robinson received a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University  
11 and attended law school at Howard University; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson served on the Pittsburgh City Council  
13 from 1978 to 1985; and

14 WHEREAS, While serving on the Pittsburgh City Council, Mr.  
15 Robinson chaired the Committee on Planning Housing and  
16 Development, the Supplies Committee and the Committee on  
17 Business Practices and Investment Policies; and

1       WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson was elected to represent the 19th  
2 Legislative District in Allegheny County as a member of the  
3 House of Representatives in 1988, replacing the former Speaker  
4 of the House of Representatives, K. Leroy Irvis; and

5       WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson's legacy of groundbreaking legislative  
6 accomplishments in this Commonwealth include identify theft  
7 protection, rent-to-own opportunities and the Organ Donation  
8 Trust Fund, which was the first fund of its type in the United  
9 States; and

10       WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson served on the Appropriations Committee,  
11 the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, the Tourism and  
12 Recreational Development Committee, the Health and Welfare  
13 Committee and the Urban Affairs Committee of the House of  
14 Representatives; and

15       WHEREAS, He also served on the Education Committee of the  
16 House of Representatives as the Democratic Chairman of the  
17 Subcommittee on Higher Education; and

18       WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson's service in the House of  
19 Representatives spanned 14 years; and

20       WHEREAS, In his later years, Mr. Robinson continued to serve  
21 as a member of the Allegheny County Council, where he focused on  
22 health and human relations and government reform; and

23       WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson also served as the Vice Chair of the  
24 Board of Trustees of the Community College of Allegheny County;  
25 therefore be it

26       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life  
27 and legacy and express condolences upon the passing of former  
28 State Representative William Russell Robinson; and be it further

29       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
30 the family of William Russell Robinson as an expression of

1 condolence for their loss and as a token of appreciation to the  
2 vital role Mr. Robinson had in serving his community with  
3 excellence.