

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, Inc. (AAAP) has over 500 members and works to “promote the interests that are common to amateur astronomers, and the advancement of the science of astronomy through public education programs and scientific research;” and

WHEREAS, founded in Pittsburgh in 1929 by Leo Scanlon and Chester B. Roe, the AAAP holds monthly meetings which typically feature a guest speaker and announcements about upcoming celestial events, including: meteor showers, comets, occultations, and rare planetary alignments; and

WHEREAS, the AAAP operates at the Wagman Observatory in Deer Lakes Park and at the Mingo Creek Park Observatory; the Wagman Observatory location is home to the Brasbear 11-inch Refractor, built by John Brasbear in 1910; the construction of this telescope was commissioned by Andrew Carnegie and William Thaw to observe the 1910 appearance of Halley’s Comet; and

WHEREAS, the AAAP has one of the largest numbers of Messier Certificates in the country, which are awarded for observing a large and diverse number of distant celestial objects; members include individuals of all ages, from those who are beginners to those who are experts; members also host “Star Parties” during fair-weather months, where many visitors are able to experience an “eyes-on” experience at a wide variety of telescopes; and

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is thankful for the presence of the AAAP in Deer Lakes Park at Wagman Observatory; the AAAP has provided an unmatched experience and education to our residents of celestial events and astronomy, and we are grateful.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby congratulate the AAAP on its exciting 75th anniversary and wish the organization and its members many more successful years!

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 12th day of July, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald

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