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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

State Representative James R. Roebuck, Jr. to Recognize Students at National History Day Philadelphia

Philadelphia, PA—March 16, 2017— At the awards ceremony at the National Constitution Center at 1 p.m., Representative James R. Roebuck, Jr. will help to honor the winners of the National History Day Philadelphia (NHD Philly) district competition, Senior Division.

Representative Roebuck strongly advocates history preservation and access, as well as the value of studying history to advance civic life and achieving learning outcomes. He holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Virginia and serves on the Board of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. He will be accompanied to NHD Philly by the Society's Interim President and CEO, Charles T. Cullen. The Historical Society is a lead partner in bringing NHD back to Philadelphia in 2004 after a 25 year absence. Every year the Society launches NHD Philly with a kickoff program that brings educators together with many supporting Philadelphia cultural partners. It also does in-school visitations, provides after school mentoring for students to aid their project creation, and hosts on-site research experiences for student class groups.

National History Day (NHD) is a distinguished national program in the humanities and the recipient of the 2011 National Humanities Medal, our nation's highest award in the Humanities. Every year, over 800,000 students nationwide participate in this program, which culminates in a national competition in Washington, D.C. Philadelphia selects about 65 to 70 students from its district competition to send a delegation to the Pennsylvania NHD State Finals. Students selected there then represent Pennsylvania in the National Finals. On March 15 – 16, nearly 600 students will gather at the National Constitution Center for the Philadelphia district competition. The Philadelphia NHD program partners, some 40+ cultural institutions, make this program available to Philadelphia students and fund student participation at the national and state levels, making Philadelphia unique in NHD for opening access to this distinguished program to students from all neighborhoods. Among the new partners this year was the Greater Philadelphia Encyclopedia Project, which produced an on-line webinar for educator and made improvements to the encyclopedia to enable better use by students and teachers.

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