

As Offered

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. R. No. 339

Representative Miller, J.

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing Toni Morrison Day in Ohio, February 18,
2026.

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the 136th
General Assembly of Ohio are pleased to recognize February 18, 2026,
as Toni Morrison Day in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Among the very finest people to ever call our state home
and the first and so far only African-American woman to win the Nobel
Prize in literature, Toni Morrison established herself as one of the
most renowned authors our nation has ever produced. Her work and its
place in the American canon are imbued in her legacy, and through her
stories, she has set an example of kindness, generosity, courage, and
eloquence for all of humanity to strive toward; and

WHEREAS, No list of accomplishments could begin to do Toni
Morrison justice, and her experiences as an Ohioan shaped the woman
who would go on to give so much to the world. Born in Lorain to a
working class family on February 18, 1931, she endured the cruelties
of the era to attend Howard University, and she served as a professor
and an editor before ultimately fulfilling her dream of becoming a
writer when her first book was published in 1970. Acclaim would soon
follow and would continue through the whole of her life, including her
being presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in addition to
countless other accolades; and

WHEREAS, To see the impact of stories and storytellers, one only
needs to look at Toni Morrison's innumerable contributions to our
society. Her writing and editing broke barriers and opened doors, not
just for her but for other African Americans who could look up and see
a face like theirs on the highest stages of literature. Her books
allow people to not only come to know her and therein come to know a

part of themselves but also to realize the potential contained within 27
everyone, to chronicle the sins of our nation's past for future 28
generations to remember and understand, and to never cease to move 29
others, be it to tears, to action, or to just simply be better; 30
therefore be it 31

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of Representatives of 32
the 136th General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, 33
recognize February 18, 2026, as Toni Morrison Day in Ohio and salute 34
Toni Morrison as a shining light for countless Ohioans; and be it 35
further 36

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit 37
duly authenticated copies of this Resolution to the news media of 38
Ohio. 39