

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
MICHAEL A. NUTTER, MAYOR

TRIBUTE

Exactly 169 years ago today, world-renowned economist, philosopher, author and statesman Henry George was born to a relatively poor family in a rowhouse at 413 South 10th Street — now the site of The Henry George School of Social Science and Birthplace Museum.

This remarkable historical figure attended Episcopal Academy and Central High School for only a brief time, instead becoming a student of the world aboard a merchant ship. He joined the California gold rush and later became a crusading journalist and newspaper owner — and, ultimately, a famous writer and lecturer whose theories on economic inequality continue to influence public policy in all corners of the globe.

Among his half-dozen eminent books, George's classic work, *Progress and Poverty* — hailed by economists for its innovative philosophies and still read by millions of college students worldwide — continues to influence public policy in the United States and abroad, including Denmark, England, Australia and New Zealand.

His provocative theories on achieving economic democracy have been applied in the areas of property assessment and public land policy, motivating the shift of property tax to land values. As a result, in 1998, our own commonwealth enacted legislation to permit its 1,000 boroughs to adopt the two-tier property-tax rate system.


This outspoken icon for economic parity also campaigned to be mayor of New York City twice: in 1886, when he came close to winning, and again in 1897, when he was the projected victor but died just days before the election.

Henry George championed the economically disadvantaged and influenced lucrative tax solutions — a legacy that continues more than a century later.

It is fitting and appropriate, therefore, that the City of Philadelphia officially recognize with this Tribute

HENRY GEORGE

as we commemorate this prominent political economist on the 169th anniversary of his birth in Philadelphia.



Michael A. Nutter
Mayor

September 2, 2008

