

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 153 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, MAJOR, MARSICO, BAKER, CLYMER, BISHOP, B. BOYLE, K. BOYLE, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, DiGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FLECK, FRANKEL, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRELL, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HESS, KAVULICH, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MCCARTER, MILLARD, MIRANDA, MOUL, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, QUINN, READSHAW, SCHLOSSBERG, STERN, TALLMAN, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 13, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 13, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2013 as "Jewish American Heritage
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On April 20, 2006, after congressional resolutions
4 introduced by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida
5 and Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania urged the President to
6 recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions
7 to American culture, President George W. Bush designated May as
8 "Jewish American History Month"; and

9 WHEREAS, President George Washington, who knew the importance
10 of Jewish contributions to the War for Independence, wrote in a
11 letter dated August 17, 1790, "May the children of the stock of
12 Abraham who dwell in the land continue to merit and enjoy the
13 goodwill of the other inhabitants. While everyone shall sit
14 safely under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none

1 to make him afraid."; and

2 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania, Delaware, South Carolina and Georgia
3 were first to eliminate barriers to voting and holding office
4 for Jewish citizens, steps which were further upheld in the Bill
5 of Rights of 1791; and

6 WHEREAS, There have been successive waves of Jewish
7 emigration to the United States, including people from Germany
8 during the 19th century, from Eastern Europe from 1880 though
9 1914 fleeing pogroms, from Europe after World War II who
10 survived the Holocaust, and, most recently, from the Soviet
11 Union after 1970, all bringing individuals with talent, skills
12 and drive who have enriched American culture; and

13 WHEREAS, The Library of Congress, National Archives and
14 Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities,
15 National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, United States
16 Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Pennsylvania Historical and
17 Museum Commission have joined in the 2013 efforts to pay tribute
18 to the generations of Jewish Americans who have helped form the
19 fabric of American history, culture and society, and resources
20 for celebration have been provided at
21 www.jewishheritagemonth.gov; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
23 month of May 2013 as "Jewish American Heritage Month" in
24 Pennsylvania and encourage participation in national, State and
25 local observances celebrating the contributions of Jewish
26 Americans to life in the United States.