
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 417 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY YOUNG, MAYES, HILL-EVANS, OTTEN, KHAN, WAXMAN,
GIRAL, KINSEY, BURGOS, ISAACSON, M. JONES, BOYD, SANCHEZ,
HOHENSTEIN AND VITALI, MAY 3, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, MAY 3, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 8, 2024, as "Marian Anderson Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Marian Anderson was born February 27, 1897, in
4 Philadelphia; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1919, Marian Anderson won the first scholarship
6 awarded by the National Association of Negro Musicians; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1924, Marian Anderson was the first African-
8 American artist to sign with RCA Victor Recording Company; and

9 WHEREAS, After winning a musical competition, Marian Anderson
10 became the first African-American artist to solo with the New
11 York Philharmonic on August 26, 1925; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1936, Marian Anderson was the first African
13 American to be invited to perform at the White House; and

14 WHEREAS, Even though she was quite famous at the time,
15 Marian Anderson was still denied rooms or service at certain
16 hotels and restaurants while touring across the country; and

17 WHEREAS, Nevertheless, Marian Anderson was hosted on many

1 occasions by Albert Einstein; and

2 WHEREAS, On Easter Sunday 1939, after being granted approval
3 from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Marian Anderson became the
4 first individual to perform solo at the Lincoln Memorial, which
5 took place in front of an integrated audience of more than
6 75,000 people and was heard by millions of people on the radio;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Marian Anderson continued to break borders for Black
9 artists by entertaining the troops in hospitals and bases during
10 World War II and the Korean War; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1941, Marian Anderson received the Edward Bok
12 Award for distinguished service to the City of Philadelphia; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1955, Marian Anderson broke the color barrier by
14 becoming the first African American to perform on the main stage
15 at the Metropolitan Opera; and

16 WHEREAS, Marian Anderson sang at the inaugurations of
17 President Dwight D. Eisenhower and President John F. Kennedy;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Marian Anderson was officially appointed goodwill
20 ambassador to the United Nations by President Dwight D.
21 Eisenhower; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1963, Marian Anderson received the Presidential
23 Medal of Freedom from President John F. Kennedy; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1984, Marian Anderson was the first recipient of
25 the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award of the City of New
26 York; and

27 WHEREAS, Marian Anderson has been awarded honorary doctoral
28 degrees from Howard University, Temple University and Smith
29 College; and

30 WHEREAS, Marian Anderson retired from singing in 1965, and

1 her achievements were honored with many recognitions, including
2 the Congressional Gold Medal in 1977, Kennedy Center Honors in
3 1978, the George Peabody Medal in 1981, the National Medal of
4 Arts in 1986 and a Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement in
5 1991; and

6 WHEREAS, Marian Anderson died of congestive heart failure on
7 April 8, 1993, at 96 years of age; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June 8,
9 2024, as "Marian Anderson Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize Marian
12 Anderson as a role model for young women, especially women of
13 color; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the legacy
15 of Marian Anderson, not only as one of the best contraltos of
16 the 20th century, but as a civil rights icon and native
17 Philadelphian.