

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 291 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, BROWN, COSTA, CULVER, PHILLIPS-HILL AND VOGEL, MAY 7, 2024

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MAY 7, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of July 1 through 8, 2024, as "Gettysburg
2 Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Between July 1 through 3, 1863, the Battle of
4 Gettysburg in Gettysburg took place between the Union Army of
5 the Potomac, led by General George G. Meade, and the Confederate
6 Army of Northern Virginia, led by General Robert E. Lee; and

7 WHEREAS, The Battle of Gettysburg is considered the most
8 important engagement of the American Civil War as it was the
9 turning point for the North; and

10 WHEREAS, Leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg, the
11 Confederate Army was advancing toward Harrisburg with the
12 northernmost engagement in Hampden Township, Cumberland County;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, On July 1, as both armies headed toward the Borough
15 of Gettysburg, the Army of Northern Virginia drove the Union
16 Army of the Potomac through town to Cemetery Hill located a half
17 mile to the south; and

18 WHEREAS, On July 2, the Army of Northern Virginia attacked

1 the Union Army of the Potomac, which stretched from the nest of
2 boulders known as Devil's Den into a peach orchard, as well as
3 in a nearby wheat field and on the slopes of Little Round Top;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, On July 3, the Army of Northern Virginia, via
6 "Pickett's Charge," attacked Cemetery Ridge but was ultimately
7 repelled by the Union Army; and

8 WHEREAS, On July 4, the Army of Northern Virginia withdrew
9 from Gettysburg; and

10 WHEREAS, The Battle of Gettysburg was the battle with the
11 largest number of casualties in the American Civil War with
12 28,000 Confederate casualties and 23,000 Union casualties; and

13 WHEREAS, On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln
14 delivered the Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the
15 Soldiers' National Cemetery; and

16 WHEREAS, More than 3,500 soldiers were buried at the
17 Soldiers' National Cemetery after losing their lives in the
18 battle; and

19 WHEREAS, Reconciliation between the north and the south began
20 at Gettysburg through warm and respectful post-war reunions that
21 featured peace walk reenactments of Pickett's Charge in 1887,
22 1913 and 1938; and

23 WHEREAS, The Gettysburg battlefield was designated as a
24 National Military Park in 1895; and

25 WHEREAS, The residents of Gettysburg helped to preserve the
26 land that now serves as the Gettysburg National Military Park,
27 including the Soldiers' National Cemetery and the Gettysburg
28 battlefield; and

29 WHEREAS, More than 1 million people travel each year to visit
30 the park, museum and visitor's center; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of July 1
2 through 8, 2024, as "Gettysburg Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate commemorate the Battle of
5 Gettysburg during the Civil War; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the historical
7 significance of the outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg which
8 helped to preserve the United States; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage residents of this
10 Commonwealth to visit Gettysburg National Military Park.