

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 238 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY MIRABITO, DeLUCA, VEREB, DiGIROLAMO, COHEN, LONGIETTI, PARKER, B. BOYLE, McGEEHAN, SNYDER, V. BROWN, MICOZZIE, KORTZ, KULA, HARHAI, HARKINS, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, KAVULICH, HENNESSEY, ROSS, SAINATO, FLYNN, MARSICO, CONKLIN, EVERETT, MILLARD, P. DALEY, MAJOR, BIZZARRO, GIBBONS, READSHAW, GODSHALL, MILNE, GINGRICH, MAHONEY, FARRY, BENNINGHOFF, FARINA, HESS, WHITE, GOODMAN, HAHN, CLYMER, WATSON, GRELL AND GROVE, APRIL 15, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 15, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Sons of Italy, Grand
2 Lodge of Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) is the
4 largest and oldest national organization of men and women who
5 represent the estimated 26 million Americans of Italian
6 heritage; and

7 WHEREAS, OSIA is dedicated to promoting the culture,
8 traditions, language and legacy of their ancestors, as well as
9 their contributions to the United States and the world; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1905, OSIA was founded as a mutual aid society
11 for early Italian immigrants to create a support system that
12 would assist them with becoming United States citizens, provide
13 health and death benefits and educational opportunities and
14 offer assistance with assimilation in America; and

1 WHEREAS, Today, OSIA has more than 600,000 members and
2 supporters and a network of more than 650 chapters coast to
3 coast, making it the leading service and advocacy organization
4 for Americans of Italian heritage; and

5 WHEREAS, To date, OSIA members have given more than \$93
6 million to educational programs, disaster relief, cultural
7 advancement and medical research; and

8 WHEREAS, The missions of OSIA include encouraging the study
9 of Italian language and culture in American schools and
10 universities, preserving Italian-American traditions, culture,
11 history and heritage and promoting closer cultural relations
12 between the United States and Italy; and

13 WHEREAS, Women have always shared equal rights with men in
14 OSIA, make up about 50% of OSIA membership and hold leadership
15 positions at all levels, including state president, national
16 trustee, national vice president and national president; and

17 WHEREAS, The Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) is a private,
18 philanthropic institution established by OSIA in 1959 that has
19 given nearly \$123 million to scholarships, medical research,
20 cultural preservation, disaster relief and other causes; and

21 WHEREAS, The Commission for Social Justice (CSJ) is the anti-
22 defamation arm of OSIA that is committed to fighting racism,
23 prejudice and the stereotyping of all races, religions and
24 cultures, especially Italians and Italian Americans; and

25 WHEREAS, Italians and people of Italian descent have made
26 vast contributions to the development of our nation through
27 government, the arts, athletics, business and education; and

28 WHEREAS, There continues to be a rich Italian heritage
29 entwined in the fabric of the history of the United States; and

30 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to approximately 1.4

1 million citizens of Italian descent; and

2 WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, founded in 1913,
3 has many Sons of Italy lodges throughout this Commonwealth where
4 members meet regularly for social and community-oriented
5 activities; and

6 WHEREAS, Five of these lodges are celebrating their 100th
7 anniversary in the order; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives celebrate the
9 100th anniversary of the Sons of Italy, Grand Lodge of
10 Pennsylvania.