

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 398 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY SANTORA, HENNESSEY, DEAN, BIZZARRO, DAVIS,
 READSHAW, CHARLTON, CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, ROE, DONATUCCI,
 FREEMAN, DiGIROLAMO, SCHWEYER, SONNEY, DUSH, SCHLOSSBERG,
 ROZZI, V. BROWN, ROEBUCK, D. COSTA AND MURT, JUNE 13, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
 JUNE 13, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 12, 2017, as "Loving Day" in Pennsylvania and
 2 encouraging the residents of this Commonwealth to celebrate
 3 the landmark 1967 United States Supreme Court ruling in
 4 *Loving v. Virginia*, which struck down all antimiscegenation
 5 laws.

6 WHEREAS, Mildred Jeter, a woman of African and Rappahannock
 7 descent, and Richard Loving, a white man, met when Mildred was
 8 11 years of age and Richard was 17 years of age; and

9 WHEREAS, Loving and Jeter grew up in Caroline County,
 10 Virginia, where state laws forbade individuals of different
 11 races to marry; and

12 WHEREAS, Interracial marriage was legal in Washington, DC,
 13 and the couple married there in 1958; and

14 WHEREAS, The law in Virginia and 24 other states not only
 15 forbade interracial marriage ceremonies, but also forbade
 16 interracial couples from getting married elsewhere and returning
 17 to the state; and

18 WHEREAS, Many states also restricted relationships between

1 Asians, Native Americans, Indians, Hispanics and other ethnic
2 groups; and

3 WHEREAS, As a married couple, the Lovings were arrested a few
4 weeks after they returned to their hometown near Richmond,
5 Virginia; and

6 WHEREAS, The couple pleaded guilty to charges of cohabiting
7 as man and wife, against the peace and dignity of the
8 Commonwealth of Virginia; and

9 WHEREAS, The judge sentenced them to a jail term of 1 to 3
10 years but suspended their sentence when the couple agreed to
11 leave Virginia for a period of 25 years; and

12 WHEREAS, The Lovings moved to Washington, DC, and began legal
13 action by writing to United States Attorney General Robert F.
14 Kennedy who referred the case to the American Civil Liberties
15 Union; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1967, *Loving v. Virginia* was argued before the
17 United States Supreme Court, which ruled unanimously that state
18 bans on interracial marriage were unconstitutional; and

19 WHEREAS, The *Loving* decision also ruled state restrictions on
20 marriage between individuals of different ethnic groups
21 unconstitutional; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2004, "Loving Day" grew out of a graduate thesis
23 project by graphic designer Ken Tanabe at Parsons School of
24 Design; and

25 WHEREAS, Each June 12, the anniversary of the *Loving*
26 decision, events throughout the United States mark the advances
27 of mixed-race couples and multicultural identity; therefore be
28 it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize June
30 12, 2017, as "Loving Day" in Pennsylvania and encourage the

1 residents of this Commonwealth to celebrate the 1967 landmark
2 United States Supreme Court ruling in *Loving v. Virginia*, which
3 struck down all antimiscegenation laws.