

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 474 Session of  
2015

---

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, ACOSTA, SAMUELSON, COHEN, BIZZARRO,  
HENNESSEY, FREEMAN, KIRKLAND, MURT, VEREB, DIGIROLAMO,  
R. BROWN, KINSEY, WARD, THOMAS, CALTAGIRONE, FRANKEL,  
DRISCOLL, CONKLIN, V. BROWN, O'BRIEN, ROZZI, KIM, MACKENZIE,  
MILLARD, D. COSTA, GINGRICH, BARRAR, SAYLOR, WATSON, MARSICO,  
READSHAW, O'NEILL, PAYNE, SCHWEYER, NEILSON, MAJOR, MAHONEY,  
YOUNGBLOOD AND GOODMAN, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing September 15 through October 15, 2015, as "Hispanic  
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth draws its strength from the  
4 extraordinary diversity of its people and their cultural  
5 customs; and

6 WHEREAS, Hispanics were the earliest European settlers to  
7 arrive at our great nation, founding settlements in Florida in  
8 the 1500s; and

9 WHEREAS, Mexicans established homesteads in the Southwest in  
10 the 1600s; and

11 WHEREAS, Spanish was the first European language spoken in  
12 the New World; and

13 WHEREAS, Hispanic culture includes elements originating in  
14 Spain, North America, Central America, South America and the  
15 Caribbean; and

1       WHEREAS, Hispanics are the largest minority ethnic group in  
2 the United States today; and

3       WHEREAS, More than 838,000 Hispanics reside in this  
4 Commonwealth; and

5       WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans make valuable contributions to  
6 this Commonwealth through business and industry, politics,  
7 education, the sciences and the arts; and

8       WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans share deep family values,  
9 recognize their obligations to persons who are less fortunate  
10 and cherish freedom and what it means to be an American; and

11       WHEREAS, Hispanic-owned businesses are currently growing at  
12 three times the rate of the national average; and

13       WHEREAS, Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have  
14 shown their devotion to our nation through military service; and

15       WHEREAS, Americans of Hispanic descent have fought in every  
16 war since our founding and have taken their rightful place as  
17 heroes in our nation's history; and

18       WHEREAS, Today, they are serving in our armed forces with  
19 courage and honor, making our nation more secure and bringing  
20 freedom to people around the world; and

21       WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Month" originated in 1968 when  
22 President Lyndon Johnson first proclaimed "National Hispanic  
23 Heritage Week"; and

24       WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan established the month-long  
25 nationwide observance on September 15, 1988; and

26       WHEREAS, September 15 marks the anniversary of independence  
27 for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador,  
28 Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and

29       WHEREAS, September 16 and 18 are the celebrated independence  
30 days for Mexico and Chile, respectively; and

1       WHEREAS, Columbus Day, or Dia de la Raza, also takes place  
2 within the 30-day period on October 12; and

3       WHEREAS, To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the  
4 Congress of the United States, by Public Law 100-402, has  
5 authorized and requested the President of the United States to  
6 annually issue a proclamation designating September 15 through  
7 October 15, 2015, as "National Hispanic Heritage Month"; and

8       WHEREAS, The month of September 15 through October 15, 2015,  
9 is observed as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania to  
10 encourage all residents to celebrate the value of our diversity  
11 and the rich culture which has made our Commonwealth and our  
12 nation so extraordinary; therefore be it

13       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe September  
14 15 through October 15, 2015, as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in  
15 Pennsylvania.