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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 580 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, DONATUCCI, SIMS, KINSEY,  
DIGIROLAMO, HENNESSEY, NEILSON, DRISCOLL, BAKER, READSHAW,  
PASHINSKI, BIZZARRO, SCHWEYER, MILLARD, KORTZ AND  
CALTAGIRONE, OCTOBER 26, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 26, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week following the second Monday in October as  
2 "Indigenous Peoples Week" and the month of October 2017 as  
3 "Indigenous Peoples Month" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, In the United States, Native American Indians,  
5 Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians are recognized as indigenous  
6 peoples; and

7 WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples have inhabited the land that is  
8 now known as Pennsylvania and the United States since time  
9 immemorial; and

10 WHEREAS, The original inhabitants of Pennsylvania include the  
11 Erie, Iroquois, Lenape, Munsee, Shawnee and Susquehannock Native  
12 American Indian tribes; and

13 WHEREAS, Of the 50 states, this Commonwealth has one of the  
14 most robust Native American Indian histories; and

15 WHEREAS, Many of the foods we eat and the medicines and  
16 remedies we use were introduced by indigenous peoples; and

17 WHEREAS, More than one highway in this Commonwealth follows

1 an original Native American Indian trail; and

2 WHEREAS, The culture and society of indigenous peoples have  
3 contributed to agricultural development, medicinal discoveries,  
4 environmental preservation, commerce, governmental institutions  
5 and structure, music, language, art and many other facets of our  
6 country, Commonwealth and cities; and

7 WHEREAS, Most Native American Indian tribes were forced to  
8 leave Pennsylvania during the 1700s when indigenous peoples were  
9 being displaced by colonial expansion; and

10 WHEREAS, Those indigenous peoples not displaced by  
11 colonialism were forced to assimilate into European society; and

12 WHEREAS, From the 1800s through the 1900s, the race of many  
13 southern and northern Native American Indians was mislabeled,  
14 resulting in the dilution of their identities; and

15 WHEREAS, There are no federally recognized Native American  
16 Indian tribes or reservations in this Commonwealth today; and

17 WHEREAS, Many indigenous peoples living in our counties,  
18 cities, townships, boroughs and towns have persevered through  
19 great adversity, trauma and tragedy to maintain their cultural  
20 and ethnic identities; and

21 WHEREAS, According to 2016 United States Census Bureau  
22 estimates, out of a population of approximately 12.8 million,  
23 almost 64,000 Pennsylvanians identify solely as Native American  
24 Indian and Alaska Native or solely as Native Hawaiian and Other  
25 Pacific Islander; and

26 WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples and their cultures are to be  
27 respected and honored across this Commonwealth and the nation;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, The importance of educating the residents of this  
30 Commonwealth about the heritage, history, art, archeology and

1 traditions of indigenous peoples and communities in this  
2 Commonwealth is acknowledged; and

3 WHEREAS, By celebrating and honoring indigenous peoples, we  
4 reaffirm our commitment to appreciating their unique cultural  
5 heritage and ethnic identities; and

6 WHEREAS, Properly recognizing indigenous peoples and their  
7 contributions to and influences on this Commonwealth and the  
8 nation throughout history is necessary to rectify historical  
9 inaccuracies; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
11 week following the second Monday in October as "Indigenous  
12 Peoples Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
14 month of October 2017 as "Indigenous Peoples Month" in  
15 Pennsylvania; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
17 Pennsylvanians to acknowledge and celebrate the cultures and  
18 values of indigenous peoples and to continue efforts to promote  
19 the well-being and growth of Pennsylvania's indigenous  
20 community.