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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 859 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY MURT, BIZZARRO, BULLOCK, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,  
D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DEAN, DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN,  
GREINER, GROVE, HENNESSEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, KIRKLAND, KOTIK,  
LONGIETTI, MATZIE, MCCLINTON, McNEILL, MILLARD, NEILSON,  
PASHINSKI, QUIGLEY, READSHAW, ROSS, ROZZI, STAATS, TOOHL,  
VEREB, WATSON, WHEELAND, YOUNGBLOOD AND MILNE, MAY 3, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 3, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating Wednesday, May 11, 2016, as "National History Day in  
2 Pennsylvania."

3 WHEREAS, "National History Day in Pennsylvania" is the  
4 Commonwealth's component of a national, year-long, classroom-  
5 based program that engages students in hands-on historical  
6 research and exploration; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 12,000 students participate on an  
8 annual basis with the support of their school peers, teachers  
9 and parents; and

10 WHEREAS, After competing successfully at the local and  
11 regional contests, more than 1,100 students, teachers, parents  
12 and family members will gather on this date for the 2016  
13 "National History Day in Pennsylvania" State contest; and

14 WHEREAS, The winners of the State contest will comprise the  
15 Pennsylvania delegation to the national contest at the

1 University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, from June 12  
2 through June 16, 2016; and

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 120 community volunteers donate their  
4 time as judges and staff for the State contest, and there are  
5 more than 650 volunteers for the regional contests on an annual  
6 basis; and

7 WHEREAS, The Army Heritage Center Foundation, which is  
8 recognized as an educational improvement organization by the  
9 Department of Education, provides Statewide oversight and  
10 management of the Commonwealth's program and contest; and

11 WHEREAS, "National History Day in Pennsylvania" is recognized  
12 as an innovative educational program by the Pennsylvania  
13 Department of Education; and

14 WHEREAS, "National History Day in Pennsylvania" is  
15 represented throughout this Commonwealth by 12 regional  
16 affiliates that coordinate activities in 57 counties across this  
17 Commonwealth; and

18 WHEREAS, The regional affiliates are Edinboro University of  
19 Pennsylvania, Misericordia University, Westminster College,  
20 Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Central Intermediate Unit  
21 #10, Jim Thorpe High School, the Heinz History Center, Messiah  
22 College, the Chester County Historical Society, the Bucks County  
23 Historical Society, the East Petersburg Lions Club and the  
24 National Archives Mid-Atlantic Region; and

25 WHEREAS, The "National History Day in Pennsylvania" program  
26 is a 2011 recipient of the National Humanities Medal and is  
27 endorsed by the American Association for State and Local  
28 History, the American Historical Association, the Federation of  
29 State Humanities Councils, the National Association of Secondary  
30 School Principals, the National Center for History in the

1 Schools, the National Council for History Education, the  
2 National Council for the Social Studies, the Organization of  
3 American Historians and the Society of American Archivists; and

4 WHEREAS, A 2010 study by Rockman, et al, shows that National  
5 History Day students outperform their peers on standardized  
6 achievement tests, are better writers, develop better critical  
7 thinking skills and learn 21st century skills; and

8 WHEREAS, Students who participate in "National History Day in  
9 Pennsylvania" are better prepared for college and careers;  
10 therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
12 Wednesday, May 11, 2016, as "National History Day in  
13 Pennsylvania" and encourage students, teachers and other  
14 citizens of this Commonwealth to participate in the "National  
15 History Day in Pennsylvania" program.