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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 955 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY MALAGARI, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, BIZZARRO, FREEMAN,  
ROZZI, BURNS, KINSEY, MURT, MILLARD AND HOWARD, JULY 30, 2020

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JULY 30, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 26, 2020, as "Bangladesh Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, Bangladesh, a country of nearly 163 million people,  
3 is a southern Asian country bordering the Bay of Bengal between  
4 Burma and India; and

5 WHEREAS, When British colonial rule in India ended in August  
6 1947, India was partitioned and two new countries were created,  
7 India and Pakistan; and

8 WHEREAS, Pakistan was separated into East and West Pakistan,  
9 with East Pakistan eventually becoming modern-day Bangladesh;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Pakistan's government began as a parliamentary  
12 democracy, with an elected constituent assembly tasked with  
13 drafting a constitution as well as overseeing the new country's  
14 legislative body; and

15 WHEREAS, Tensions between West Pakistan and Bengalis in East  
16 Pakistan continued to grow due to the refusal to accept Bengali  
17 as the state language of Pakistan, the economic disparities

1 between the two regions, West Pakistani hegemony and the  
2 declaration of martial law; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1956, Pakistan adopted a constitution where East  
4 and West Pakistan were both equally represented in government;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Bengalis were still discontented with the Pakistani  
7 government and, following a clash with India over control of  
8 territories in the Kashmir region, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman  
9 announced his six-point plan for East Pakistani independence in  
10 1965; and

11 WHEREAS, On March 25, 1971, government troops from West  
12 Pakistan invaded Dhaka despite negotiations between Yahya Kahn,  
13 president of Pakistan and commander in chief of the armed  
14 forces, and Sheikh Mujib occurring over the month of March; and

15 WHEREAS, On March 26, 1971, Sheikh Mujib declared East  
16 Pakistan independence following his arrest and transportation to  
17 West Pakistan; and

18 WHEREAS, In the following nine months, the Bangladesh  
19 Liberation War claimed the lives of an estimated 300,000 to 3  
20 million people with 10 million Bengalis fleeing and becoming  
21 displaced within India; and

22 WHEREAS, India invaded both East and West Pakistan in defense  
23 of East Pakistani autonomy on December 3, 1971, and Pakistani  
24 defenses surrendering on December 16, 1971, ensured the official  
25 independence of what is now known as the People's Republic of  
26 Bangladesh; and

27 WHEREAS, The green and red colors of Bangladesh's national  
28 flag symbolize the country's flora and the sun rising over the  
29 new country; and

30 WHEREAS, There is a Bangladeshi community here in

1 Pennsylvania, as the Bangladesh Association of Pennsylvania is  
2 located in Lansdale; and

3 WHEREAS, The Bangladesh Association of Pennsylvania is a  
4 nonprofit cultural organization that seeks to promote  
5 Bangladeshi social and cultural activities in Pennsylvania; and

6 WHEREAS, The Bangladesh Association of Pennsylvania also aims  
7 to develop increased cooperation and understanding with similar  
8 organizations of other ethnicities in Pennsylvania; therefore be  
9 it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate March  
11 26, 2020, as "Bangladesh Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and  
13 foster the important contributions made by Bangladeshi  
14 Pennsylvanians to unify residents of this Commonwealth.