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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 220 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY STREET, KEARNEY, HAYWOOD, BOSCOLA, HUGHES,  
COMITTA, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, SANTARSIERO AND  
SCHWANK, JANUARY 5, 2024

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 5, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2024 as "Muslim Heritage and  
2 Appreciation Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth takes great pride in the varied  
4 religious and cultural traditions of its residents and seeks to  
5 afford all residents the opportunity to better understand,  
6 recognize and appreciate the rich histories, cultures and shared  
7 principles of Muslim Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, Muslims are the world's second-largest religious  
9 group, with 1.9 billion adherents, representing approximately  
10 25% of the world's population; and

11 WHEREAS, Muslims have made significant contributions that  
12 shape our world, including notable achievements in philosophy,  
13 mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine,  
14 architecture, music, literature, athletics and the arts; and

15 WHEREAS, The 3.85 million Muslims in the United States come  
16 from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, including African-  
17 American Muslims, immigrants and native-born Americans, and

1 represent approximately 1.2% of the country's population; and

2 WHEREAS, The history of Muslims in the United States dates  
3 back to before the country's founding, originating with enslaved  
4 Africans, of whom scholars estimate as many as 30% were Muslim,  
5 who brought Islamic beliefs and practices with them and  
6 contributed in numerous ways to the founding of the nation,  
7 including courageous and dedicated military service in every  
8 major American war from the Revolutionary War until today; and

9 WHEREAS, The long presence of African-American Muslim  
10 populations in this Commonwealth has key historical  
11 significance, with leading figures such as Muhammad Ali, Malcolm  
12 X and Imam Warith Deen Mohammed having lived in this  
13 Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, Successive waves of Muslim immigrants from all over  
15 the world have enriched American society; and

16 WHEREAS, Muslim Americans strive to promote peace and mutual  
17 understanding between all faiths and identities while upholding  
18 the values and principles of Islam and those of the United  
19 States; and

20 WHEREAS, There are hundreds of thousands of Muslim Americans  
21 in this Commonwealth, representing one of the largest Muslim  
22 American populations of any state in the United States,  
23 including numerous current and former elected officials  
24 dedicated to public service in their communities; and

25 WHEREAS, Incidents of anti-Muslim violence and rhetoric are  
26 still prevalent in our country and this Commonwealth, and  
27 educational initiatives are critical to combating bigotry; and

28 WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth benefit from the  
29 patriotism, philanthropy, humanitarianism, advocacy, civic  
30 engagement, culture and business of Muslim Americans and Muslim-

1 American organizations that operate in this Commonwealth; and  
2 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth recognizes the positive impact  
3 Muslims have made, and continue to make, to the advancement of  
4 this Commonwealth and the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to acknowledge and promote  
6 awareness and appreciation of the myriad invaluable  
7 contributions of American Muslims in this Commonwealth and  
8 across the country, and extend to them the respect and  
9 camaraderie every American deserves; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2024  
11 as "Muslim Heritage and Appreciation Month" in Pennsylvania; and  
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate acknowledge and promote awareness  
14 and appreciation of Muslim Americans and recognize the many  
15 contributions of this Commonwealth's Muslim community.