
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 351 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, DINNIMAN, LEACH, SCHWANK, SABATINA,
BREWSTER, FARNESE, BROWNE, GREENLEAF, COSTA, FONTANA, WARD,
YUDICHAK, MENSCH, HUGHES, RAFFERTY, VULAKOVICH AND
TARTAGLIONE, MAY 9, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 9, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2016 as "Jewish American Heritage
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On April 20, 2006, after congressional resolutions
4 introduced by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida
5 and Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania urged the President to
6 recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions
7 to American culture, President George W. Bush designated May as
8 "Jewish American History Month"; and

9 WHEREAS, President George Washington, who knew the importance
10 of Jewish contributions to the War of Independence, wrote in a
11 letter dated August 17, 1790:

12 May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in the
13 land continue to merit and enjoy the goodwill of the other
14 inhabitants. While everyone shall sit safely under his own
15 vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid;

16 and

17 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania, Delaware, South Carolina and Georgia
18 were first to eliminate barriers to voting and holding office

1 for Jewish citizens, steps which were further upheld in the Bill
2 of Rights of 1791; and

3 WHEREAS, There have been successive waves of Jewish
4 emigration to the United States, including people from Germany
5 during the 19th century, from Eastern Europe from 1880 through
6 1914 fleeing pogroms, from Europe after World War II who
7 survived the Holocaust, and, most recently, from the Soviet
8 Union after 1970, all bringing individuals with talent, skills
9 and drive who have enriched American culture; and

10 WHEREAS, The Library of Congress, National Archives and
11 Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities,
12 National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, United States
13 Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Pennsylvania Historical and
14 Museum Commission have joined in the 2014 efforts to pay tribute
15 to the generations of Jewish Americans who have helped form the
16 fabric of American history, culture and society, and resources
17 for celebration have been provided at
18 www.jewishheritagemonth.gov; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of May 2016 as
20 "Jewish American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania and encourage
21 participation in national, State and local observances
22 celebrating the contributions of Jewish Americans to life in the
23 United States.