
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 575 Session of
2006

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, THOMAS, ARGALL, ARMSTRONG, BALDWIN,
BISHOP, BUNT, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CAUSER,
CORRIGAN, COSTA, CRAHALLA, CRUZ, DERMODY, DONATUCCI,
D. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GOOD,
GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARPER, HERSHEY, JAMES, KIRKLAND, KOTIK,
LEDERER, LEVDANSKY, MANDERINO, MARKOSEK, MCGEEHAN, MILLARD,
MUNDY, MYERS, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PETRARCA, PISTELLA, PRESTON,
RAMALEY, REICHLEY, ROBERTS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SATHER,
SCAVELLO, SHANER, SHAPIRO, B. SMITH, STETLER, SURRA, TIGUE,
VEON, WANSACZ, JOSEPHS, HESS, WATERS, WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI,
YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK, PARKER, SIPTROTH, PICKETT AND ROEBUCK,
FEBRUARY 2, 2006

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 2, 2006

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of February 2006 as "Black History Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Carter G. Woodson, noted black scholar and
4 historian, founded "Black History Week," the second week in
5 February, on February 12, 1926; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1976 as part of the nation's bicentennial, "Black
7 History Week" was expanded and established as "Black History
8 Month" with the hope that through this special observance all
9 Americans would be reminded of their ethnic roots and develop a
10 mutual respect for the contributions of all racial groups in
11 America; and

12 WHEREAS, The month of February is significant and recognized

1 in African-American history for the birthdays of great African-
2 American pioneers and institutions, such as Frederick Douglass,
3 W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Eubie Blake, the NAACP and the
4 first Pan-African Congress; and

5 WHEREAS, African-Americans have endured tremendous personal,
6 social, economic and political injustices since the dawn of
7 their enslavement; and

8 WHEREAS, Increasing intercultural exchange and understanding
9 will lead to the healing of all races; and

10 WHEREAS, We owe a great deal of gratitude to those persons
11 who have pioneered the way toward social equality; and

12 WHEREAS, One such trailblazer was Shirley Chisolm, the first
13 African-American Congresswoman, elected in 1968; and

14 WHEREAS, "Black History Month" draws our collective attention
15 to the experience of African-Americans in this country, from the
16 beauty and strength of a people suffering an unjust sentence of
17 slavery, to the gains during the abolitionist movement,
18 including the 14th Amendment, to a backlash of the oppressive
19 laws of "Jim Crow" which legalized the institutional separation
20 of the races, to the celebration of life and the arts through
21 the Harlem Renaissance, to the numerous and significant gains of
22 freedom by the civil rights movement and agents of change like
23 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers and Malcolm
24 X; and

25 WHEREAS, For the immeasurable struggle of the leaders,
26 victims and silent heroes who have fought to end discrimination,
27 hatred, bigotry and segregation, we are all in debt; therefore
28 be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
30 month of February 2006 as "Black History Month" in Pennsylvania;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
3 appreciate the many benefits of "Black History Month" to our
4 citizenry and to our culture in general and urge all
5 Pennsylvanians to take the opportunity during this month to
6 explore this rich history and bring our nation closer to
7 realizing racial equity.