

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 267 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, KAUFER, FREEMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, BERNSTINE, SOLOMON, YOUNGBLOOD, MUSTIO, DEAN, DONATUCCI, DeLUCA, BRIGGS, DiGIROLAMO, HENNESSEY, BAKER, MACKENZIE, DERMODY, RYAN, SAINATO, SIMS, KINSEY, R. BROWN, O'NEILL, TOEPEL, PASHINSKI, CHARLTON, BOBACK, GODSHALL, SNYDER, READSHAW, MATZIE, MENTZER, LONGIETTI, McNEILL, WATSON, V. BROWN, NEILSON, B. MILLER, HARKINS, MURT, CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, WHITE, DRISCOLL, O'BRIEN, A. HARRIS, GOODMAN, PHILLIPS-HILL AND WARD, APRIL 19, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 19, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 23 through 30, 2017, as "Days of Remembrance
2 of the Victims of the Holocaust" and recognizing April 24,
3 2017, as "Holocaust Remembrance Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The Holocaust, one of the darkest chapters in human
5 history, was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and
6 annihilation of the European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its
7 collaborators between 1933 and 1945; and

8 WHEREAS, During the Holocaust, 6 million Jews were murdered,
9 many by bullets from the Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing units)
10 or in the gas chambers of the concentration camps; and

11 WHEREAS, The word "Holocaust" is Greek in origin and means
12 "sacrifice by fire"; and

13 WHEREAS, The Nazi's suspension of basic civil rights occurred
14 within days of Hitler's accession to power in January 1933; and

1 WHEREAS, Starting in April 1933, laws using a template called
2 the "Aryan Paragraph" were passed to deprive Jews of their
3 government jobs and their place in civil society; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws removed voting and
5 political rights and banned intermarriage, among numerous other
6 assaults on civil rights; and

7 WHEREAS, From 1933 until the outbreak of war in 1939, the
8 first six years of Adolph Hitler's dictatorship in Germany, Jews
9 felt the effects of more than 400 decrees and regulations that
10 restricted all aspects of their public and private lives; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1933, the Jewish population in Europe was
12 estimated to be more than 9 million; and

13 WHEREAS, By 1945, the Nazis and their collaborators killed
14 nearly two out of every three European Jews as part of their
15 "Final Solution"; and

16 WHEREAS, Millions of persons, including Roma (Gypsies),
17 persons with disabilities, gay men and women, Jehovah's
18 Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, political dissidents and
19 nearly 2 million Poles, were also targeted for destruction or
20 decimation for racial, ethnic or national reasons; and

21 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth was founded on the principles of
22 religious freedom and tolerance; and

23 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth should remember the
24 atrocities committed by the Nazis so that these horrors are
25 never repeated; and

26 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth should continually
27 rededicate themselves to the principle of equal justice for all;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth should remain
30 vigilant against all tyranny and recognize that bigotry provides

1 a breeding ground for tyranny to flourish; and

2 WHEREAS, In the 1930s and the 1940s, Pennsylvanians rescued
3 children from Europe, led efforts to publicize the horrors of
4 the Holocaust during the war, liberated concentration camps and
5 prosecuted those who committed these evil acts in the Nuremberg
6 Trials; and

7 WHEREAS, Nearly 1,000 Pennsylvanians who are Holocaust
8 survivors have contributed their oral histories of the Holocaust
9 to the USC Shoah Foundation, created by Steven Spielberg, and
10 have told their stories in schools and in communities across the
11 Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians have established Holocaust museums,
13 educational programs, monuments and commemorations throughout
14 this Commonwealth, engaging Jews, Christians, Muslims and all
15 people of good will; and

16 WHEREAS, With the help of the children and grandchildren of
17 Holocaust survivors and liberators, Pennsylvanians can continue
18 to rededicate themselves to the principle of equal justice for
19 all; and

20 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has passed laws providing for
21 curriculum guidelines that would complement the stories of
22 Pennsylvania's Holocaust survivors and the efforts of their
23 children and grandchildren to teach our students about the
24 Holocaust; and

25 WHEREAS, April 24, 2017, which corresponds to the 27th day of
26 Nisan on the Hebrew calendar, has been designated
27 internationally as a "Day of Remembrance of Victims of the Nazi
28 Holocaust" and is also known as Yom Hashoah; and

29 WHEREAS, This date further coincides with the anniversary of
30 the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in German-occupied Poland which

1 occurred from April 19 through May 16, 1943; and

2 WHEREAS, It is appropriate for the people of this
3 Commonwealth to join in the international commemoration of this
4 solemn event; and

5 WHEREAS, By marking this occasion and honoring the memory of
6 the millions of victims of the Holocaust, the House of
7 Representatives hopes to overcome prejudice and inhumanity
8 through education, vigilance and resistance; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April
10 23 through 30, 2017, as "Days of Remembrance of the Victims of
11 the Holocaust" and recognize April 24, 2017, as "Holocaust
12 Remembrance Day" in Pennsylvania.