

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 687 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY STRUZZI, BARRAR, BERNSTINE, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BURNS, COX, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DUSH, FREEMAN, GLEIM, GREINER, HEFFLEY, HOHENSTEIN, JAMES, JONES, JOZWIAK, KIM, KNOWLES, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MILLARD, MURT, OWLETT, PICKETT, PYLE, RAPP, READSHAW, RYAN, SANKEY, SAPPEY, SAYLOR, SCHMITT, SONNEY, TOEPEL AND YOUNGBLOOD, JANUARY 22, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, JANUARY 22, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 20, 2020, as "Jimmy Stewart Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart was one of Hollywood's most respected
4 and admired stars during his nearly 50-year-long movie career;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart was born on May 20, 1908, in Indiana,
7 Pennsylvania; and

8 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart attended high school at Mercersburg
9 Academy, in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, where he played football
10 and was a member of the glee club and the drama club; and

11 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart entered Princeton University in 1928,
12 graduating with a degree in architecture; and

13 WHEREAS, After graduating from Princeton, Jimmy Stewart
14 joined the University Players, a theater group in West Falmouth,
15 Massachusetts; and

1 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart often played a man of modest means,
2 with moral resolute, striving to overcome his position in life
3 to reach his dreams; and

4 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart's slow, halting line delivery and
5 naive, engaging manner was quickly accepted by the moviegoing
6 public; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1939, Jimmy Stewart's portrayal of a shy,
8 idealistic young senator fighting corruption in Congress in "Mr.
9 Smith Goes to Washington" won him the New York Film Critics best
10 actor award and gave him his first Academy Award nomination; and

11 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart is best remembered for his role in the
12 1946 sentimental, holiday favorite, "It's a Wonderful Life," in
13 which he plays the embittered idealist, George Bailey, a decent,
14 small-town citizen; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1940, Jimmy Stewart won an Academy Award,
16 performing in "The Philadelphia Story" with Katharine Hepburn
17 and Cary Grant; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1941, Jimmy Stewart enlisted in the United States
19 Army and was assigned to the United States Army Air Corps; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1943, Jimmy Stewart was sent to Europe as
21 commander of a bomber squadron and awarded the Air Medal and the
22 Distinguished Flying Cross; and

23 WHEREAS, During the late 1940s, Jimmy Stewart enjoyed success
24 on Broadway as the ingratiating inebriate Elwood P. Dowd, whose
25 best friend was an invisible 6-foot rabbit in "Harvey"; and

26 WHEREAS, The play "Harvey" was adapted for the movie screen
27 in 1950 earning another Academy Award nomination for Stewart;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart received an Honorary Academy Award in
30 1985 for, as the Academy noted, "his 50 years of meaningful

1 performances, for his high ideals, both on and off the screen,
2 with the respect and affection of his colleagues"; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1985, Jimmy Stewart was awarded the Presidential
4 Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1995, Jimmy Stewart was honored when The Jimmy
6 Stewart Museum opened in his hometown of Indiana, Pennsylvania;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart died on July 2, 1997, at his home in
9 Beverly Hills, California; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 20,
11 2020, as "Jimmy Stewart Day" in Pennsylvania.