

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 27 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY STRUZZI, ARMANINI, GILLEN, GREINER, GUENST, JAMES,
KHAN, PICKETT, RAPP, SANCHEZ, SCHMITT, SMITH AND WEBSTER,
MARCH 10, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, MARCH 10, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 20, 2023, 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 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 University, Jimmy
14 Stewart joined the University Players, a theater group in West
15 Falmouth, Massachusetts; and

16 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart often played a man of modest means,
17 with moral resolve, striving to overcome his position in life to

1 reach his dreams; and

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

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

9 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart is best remembered for his role in the
10 1946 sentimental, holiday favorite, "It's a Wonderful Life," in
11 which he plays the embittered idealist, George Bailey, a decent,
12 small-town citizen; and

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

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart received an Honorary Academy Award in
28 1985 for, as the Academy noted, "his 50 years of meaningful
29 performances, for his high ideals, both on and off the screen,
30 with the respect and affection of his colleagues"; and

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

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

6 WHEREAS, Jimmy Stewart died July 2, 1997, at his home in
7 Beverly Hills, California; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 20,
9 2023, as "Jimmy Stewart Day" in Pennsylvania.