
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 134 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY KUTZ, JUNE 1, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 1, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Her Majesty Queen Maria I of Portugal for her
2 assistance to Pennsylvania in the cause of freedom during the
3 American Revolution and honoring her direct descendant, His
4 Serene Highness Dom Filipe Alberto Folque de Mendóça, as a
5 member in good standing of the Washingtonburg Chapter of the
6 Pennsylvania Society Sons of the American Revolution.

7 WHEREAS, Dona Maria I was the first undisputed queen regnant
8 of Portugal and the first monarch of Brazil; and

9 WHEREAS, Dona Maria I became Her Majesty Queen Maria I of
10 Portugal (HM Queen Maria I) in 1777 and later reigned as Queen
11 of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarves until
12 her death in 1816; and

13 WHEREAS, HM Queen Maria I provided assistance to Pennsylvania
14 in the cause of freedom during the American Revolution; and

15 WHEREAS, HM Queen Maria I permitted the publication of the
16 "Resolution of the Province of Pennsylvania, taken by its
17 Respective Assembly, with the Purpose of Reaffirming the
18 Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America" in
19 the Gazeta de Lisboa in 1778; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1779, HM Queen Maria I supported captured

1 American seamen at her own personal expense, refusing an offer
2 of reimbursement made by Benjamin Franklin; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1779, a Portuguese court refused to allow the
4 British to retain a captured ship, in what has come to be called
5 the Amity incident; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1780, HM Queen Maria I issued a decree expelling
7 all privateers from her ports and requesting the departure of
8 all British vessels; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1783, before the conclusion of the Treaty of
10 Paris, HM Queen Maria I issued a royal decree formally opening
11 Portuguese ports to American ships; and

12 WHEREAS, His Serene Highness Dom Filipe Alberto Folque de
13 Mendóça, Count of Rio Grande (HSH Dom Filipe), is a direct
14 descendant of HM Queen Maria I and dynast of the Constitutional
15 branch of the Royal House of Portugal; and

16 WHEREAS, HSH Dom Filipe is a member in good standing of the
17 Washingtonburg Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the
18 American Revolution (PASSAR); and

19 WHEREAS, PASSAR was instituted to, among other things, honor
20 the memory of those individuals who, in the military, naval and
21 civil service of the colonies and of the Continental Congress,
22 by their acts or counsel, helped to achieve the independence of
23 this country; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
25 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania honor Her Majesty Queen Maria I of
26 Portugal for her assistance to Pennsylvania in the cause of
27 freedom during the American Revolution and honor her direct
28 descendant, His Serene Highness Dom Filipe Alberto Folque de
29 Mendóça, as a member in good standing of the Washingtonburg
30 Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the American

1 Revolution; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to

3 His Serene Highness Dom Filipe Alberto Folque de Mendóça.