
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 472 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, MIRANDA, YOUNGBLOOD, COHEN, K. BOYLE,
PICKETT, SCHREIBER, READSHAW, ROZZI, CLAY, PAINTER, BROWNLEE,
KIRKLAND, B. BOYLE, MACKENZIE, MILNE, MUSTIO, KIM, KINSEY,
VEREB, SCHLOSSBERG, J. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, DONATUCCI,
HAGGERTY, PARKER, SACCONI, MILLARD, R. MILLER, KORTZ,
CALTAGIRONE, V. BROWN, DIGIROLAMO, GINGRICH, MAJOR, ROSS,
O'BRIEN, KILLION, MARSICO, MCNEILL, ROCK, GOODMAN AND GROVE,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing September 15 through October 15, 2013, as "Hispanic
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth draws its strength from the
4 extraordinary diversity of its people and their cultural
5 customs; and

6 WHEREAS, Hispanics were the earliest European settlers to
7 arrive at our great nation, founding settlements in Florida in
8 the 1500s; and

9 WHEREAS, Mexicans established homesteads in the Southwest in
10 the 1600s; and

11 WHEREAS, Spanish was the first European language spoken in
12 the New World; and

13 WHEREAS, Hispanic culture includes elements originating in
14 Spain, North America, Central America, South America and the

1 Caribbean; and

2 WHEREAS, Hispanics are the largest minority ethnic group in
3 the United States today, with more than 810,000 residing in
4 Pennsylvania; and

5 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans make valuable contributions to
6 this Commonwealth through business and industry, politics,
7 education, the sciences and the arts; and

8 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans share deep family values,
9 recognize their obligations to persons who are less fortunate
10 and cherish freedom and what it means to be an American; and

11 WHEREAS, Hispanic-owned businesses are currently growing at
12 three times the rate of the national average; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have
14 shown their devotion to our country in their military service;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Americans of Hispanic descent have fought in every
17 war since our founding and have taken their rightful place as
18 heroes in our nation's history; and

19 WHEREAS, Today, Americans of Hispanic descent are serving in
20 our armed forces with courage and honor, and their efforts help
21 make America more secure and bring freedom to people around the
22 world; and

23 WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month was started in 1968 by
24 President Johnson as Hispanic Heritage Week and was expanded to
25 one month by President Reagan on September 15, 1988; and

26 WHEREAS, The dates for Hispanic Heritage Month were chosen
27 because September 15th is the anniversary of independence for
28 five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador,
29 Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and

30 WHEREAS, September 16th and 18th are the celebrated

1 independence days for Mexico and Chile, respectively, and
2 finally, Columbus Day, or Dia de La Raza also takes place within
3 the 30-day period on October 12th; and

4 WHEREAS, To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the
5 Congress of the United States, by Public Law 100-402, has
6 authorized and requested the President to issue annually a
7 proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as
8 National Hispanic Heritage Month; and

9 WHEREAS, The month of September 15 through October 15, 2013,
10 has been proclaimed Hispanic Heritage Month in Pennsylvania and
11 is intended to encourage all citizens to celebrate the value of
12 our diversity and the rich culture which makes our Commonwealth
13 and our nation so extraordinary; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe September
15 15 through October 15, 2013, as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in
16 Pennsylvania.