

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 144 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY MULLERY, PASHINSKI, DRISCOLL, KIRKLAND, DIGIROLAMO, BISHOP, MURT, COHEN, VEREB, MILLARD, HARHART, CALTAGIRONE, BOBACK, ROZZI, O'BRIEN, READSHAW, SCHWEYER, HENNESSEY, KAVULICH, FARINA, McNEILL, ROSS, BARRAR, DeLUCA, KINSEY, WHEELAND, MARSICO, D. COSTA, MAJOR, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GIBBONS AND WATSON, MARCH 3, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 3, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 19, 2015, as "St. Joseph's Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, For those who still observe Polish name day, or
4 imieniny, the name "Joseph" presents special problems; and

5 WHEREAS, The feast day of St. Joseph falls on March 19, which
6 is in the middle of Lenten fasting; and

7 WHEREAS, To allow the many Josephs to celebrate their name
8 day, the Roman Catholic Church grants a dispensation, allowing a
9 "festive fast" of meatless foods; and

10 WHEREAS, For Polish Americans, "St. Joseph's Day" took on
11 special significance; and

12 WHEREAS, From the 1890s to 1930s, the waves of Polish and
13 Italian immigrants were faced with a Roman Catholic clergy that
14 was unfamiliar with their culture; and

15 WHEREAS, As a result of this clash of language and culture,

1 Poles and Italians built their own churches, importing priests
2 from Poland and Italy, and created schools that preserved their
3 heritage; and

4 WHEREAS, Not to be outdone by the huge celebrations for St.
5 Patrick's Day on March 17, St. Joseph's Day, just two days later
6 on March 19, became a chance for Polish-Americans and Italian-
7 Americans to express their ethnic pride with the "wearing of the
8 red," a color that appears in both countries' flags; and

9 WHEREAS, Parades and huge meatless feasts known as St.
10 Joseph's Tables or St. Joseph's Altars were held; and

11 WHEREAS, For Poles, many American parishes continue to hold
12 these banquets in church halls with tables decorated in red and
13 white, a statue or holy cards of St. Joseph, flowers and a
14 donation bowl for the needy; and

15 WHEREAS, Sometimes during the banquet there is bread baked in
16 the shape of St. Joseph's staff over which a blessing is made to
17 signify the beginning of the feast; and

18 WHEREAS, In Poland, name days are a special time for family
19 and friends to gather to wish the person celebrating their name
20 day *Wszystkiego najlepszego!* (All the best!) and *Sto lat!* (A
21 hundred years!); and

22 WHEREAS, On these occasions, if gifts are given, they are
23 usually flowers or chocolates and, sometimes, a little vodka for
24 toasting; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate March
26 19, 2015, as "St. Joseph's Day" in Pennsylvania.