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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 800 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY MICCARELLI, SANTORA, DAVIDSON, MILLARD, MURT,  
HEFFLEY, KIRKLAND, DIGIROLAMO, KILLION, HENNESSEY, ROSS,  
D. COSTA, NEILSON, WATSON AND MILNE, APRIL 8, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 8, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 13, 2016, as the observance of "Vaisakhi" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Vaisakhi is a holiday observed by Sikhs throughout  
4 the world, celebrating the spring harvest and commemorating the  
5 1699 gathering at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab, India, when the  
6 founding of the Sikh family of soldier saints known as Khalsa  
7 Panth occurred; and

8 WHEREAS, The Sikh faith, which was established in the Punjab  
9 region of India in the 1400s, persevered and expanded, with Guru  
10 Gobind Singh founding the Khalsa Panth, a new order of Sikhism,  
11 in 1699; and

12 WHEREAS, The Sikh people have a renowned military history  
13 marked by gallantry and self-sacrifice that is epitomized by the  
14 heroic last stand at the Battle of Saragarhi; and

15 WHEREAS, The Battle of Saragarhi was fought on September 12,  
16 1897, between the 36th Sikh Regiment of British India, defending  
17 an army post, and 10,000 Afghan and Orakzai tribesmen; and

1       WHEREAS, When the British commander radioed the 21 Sikhs, led  
2 by Havildar Ishar Singh, that timely reinforcement was  
3 impossible, they chose not to abandon the fort but instead to  
4 stand and fight to the death; and

5       WHEREAS, Details of the fight were continuously relayed to  
6 the command as the Sikhs died gallantly, one by one, delaying  
7 the Afghan attack so severely that the invading force was  
8 eventually repulsed; and

9       WHEREAS, The British Parliament rendered the Sikhs a standing  
10 ovation upon hearing the accounts and Queen Victoria stated,  
11 "The British, as well as the Indians, are proud of the 36th Sikh  
12 Regiments. It is no exaggeration to record that the armies which  
13 possess the valiant Sikhs cannot face defeat in war"; and

14       WHEREAS, All 21 Sikhs who died at Saraghari were awarded the  
15 Indian Order of Merit, equivalent to the Victoria Cross; and

16       WHEREAS, Today the Sikh people, who now number in the tens of  
17 millions worldwide, mark Vaisakhi with parades, dancing, singing  
18 and other festivities; and

19       WHEREAS, The Sikh community of Pennsylvania, part of the rich  
20 cultural fabric of this Commonwealth, makes many valuable  
21 contributions as its members work in a variety of professions  
22 and businesses and contribute to their local communities;  
23 therefore be it

24       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April  
25 13, 2016, as the day to recognize the observance of "Vaisakhi"  
26 in Pennsylvania.