
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 985 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY FARINA, TOOHL, DONATUCCI, ROZZI, QUIGLEY,
HENNESSEY, COOK-ARTIS, VEREB, BIZZARRO, O'BRIEN, WATSON,
MILLARD, COHEN, SCHLOSSBERG, DIGIROLAMO, KIRKLAND, KINSEY,
CALTAGIRONE, CORBIN, VITALI, EVERETT, PASHINSKI, DRISCOLL,
READSHAW, BAKER, McNEILL, SAYLOR, ROSS, WARD, BURNS, PAYNE,
MAJOR, SCHWEYER, DEASY, GOODMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, MURT,
O'NEILL, MAHONEY AND YOUNGBLOOD, SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2016 as "Native American Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Native American Month" celebrates and recognizes
4 the accomplishments of the people who were the original
5 inhabitants, explorers and settlers of this Commonwealth and the
6 United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Native Americans have inhabited the land that is now
8 known as Pennsylvania for more than 5,000 years; and

9 WHEREAS, Many of the foods we eat and the medicines and
10 remedies we use were introduced by Native Americans and more
11 than one highway follows an original Native American trail; and

12 WHEREAS, The original inhabitants of Pennsylvania include the
13 Erie, Iroquois, Lenape, Munsee, Shawnee and Susquehannock
14 tribes; and

15 WHEREAS, Native American governments developed the

1 fundamental principles of freedom of speech and separation of
2 powers in government and these principles form the foundation of
3 the United States government today; and

4 WHEREAS, Native Americans have made distinct and important
5 contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in
6 many fields, including agriculture, medicine, music, language
7 and art; and

8 WHEREAS, Native American culture and society have contributed
9 to agricultural development, medicinal discoveries,
10 environmental preservation, commerce, governmental institutions
11 and structure and many other facets of our country, State and
12 cities; and

13 WHEREAS, Most Native American tribes were forced to leave
14 Pennsylvania during the 1700s when eastern tribes were being
15 displaced by colonial expansion; and

16 WHEREAS, While we work together to forge a brighter future,
17 we cannot shy away from the difficult aspects of Native American
18 history; and

19 WHEREAS, By celebrating and honoring Native Americans, we
20 reaffirm our commitment to respecting each tribe's identity
21 while ensuring equal opportunity to pursue the American dream;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, We should move forward in a spirit of mutual
24 understanding and trust, confident that future challenges will
25 be met and our shared future remains bright; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
27 month of October 2016 as "Native American Month" in
28 Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on all
30 Pennsylvanians to commemorate this month with appropriate civic

1 programs and activities to celebrate "Native American Month."