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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 189 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, ARGALL, BAKER, BROWNE, MENSCH,  
PHILLIPS-HILL, J. WARD AND FOLMER, JUNE 26, 2019

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 26, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2019 as "Lithuanian Partnership  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The month of June 2019 marks the 26-year anniversary  
4 of a successful partnership between the Pennsylvania National  
5 Guard and Lithuanian Armed Forces; and

6 WHEREAS, The partnership is one of 75 worldwide  
7 collaborations that make up the National Guard State Partnership  
8 Program; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard and Lithuania Armed  
10 Forces affiliation is one of 22 European partnerships that  
11 constitute the United States European Command State Partnership  
12 Program; and

13 WHEREAS, The partnership was born out of the fall of the  
14 Soviet Union in 1991; and

15 WHEREAS, Established April 27, 1993, the partnership commands  
16 Pennsylvania's brave men and women serving in Lithuania; and

17 WHEREAS, There is a significant Baltic population in  
18 Pennsylvania, including individuals with Estonian, Latvian and

1 Lithuanian heritage; and

2 WHEREAS, On June 14, 2019, a "Day of Mourning and Hope" was  
3 observed in Lithuania, marking the deportation of 30,000  
4 Lithuanians by the Soviet Union to Siberia; and

5 WHEREAS, The deportations were part of 35 mass expulsions  
6 carried out in 1941 and from 1945 to 1952; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 300,000 people were deported in total,  
8 of which 70% were women and children; and

9 WHEREAS, Due to cold, extreme living conditions, starvation,  
10 plagues and psychological abuse, many Lithuanians died following  
11 deportation; and

12 WHEREAS, The atrocities led to a decade-long armed resistance  
13 against the Soviet Union in the Baltics and the ultimate  
14 vindication of our Lithuanian friends; and

15 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians are appreciative of our friendship,  
16 partnership and bond with Lithuania; and

17 WHEREAS, As Pennsylvanians, we stand in solidarity with our  
18 friends and allies in Estonia, Latvia, and especially Lithuania  
19 due to its deep and long relationship with the Commonwealth;  
20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of June 2019 as  
22 "Lithuanian Partnership Month" in Pennsylvania.