
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 487 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY HADDOCK, PASHINSKI, HILL-EVANS, GUENST, VENKAT,
PROBST, CONKLIN, HARKINS, HOHENSTEIN, KINSEY, GIRAL,
SCHLOSSBERG, KHAN, JOZWIAK AND GALLAGHER, JUNE 21, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JUNE 21, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 1, 2024, as "Polish Resistance in World
2 War II Commemoration Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, World War II, humanity's most destructive and deadly
4 conflict, forever changed the world when it began 85 years ago;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany
7 began World War II when they launched an unprovoked attack on
8 Poland, and two days later, on September 3, Great Britain and
9 France declared war on Germany; and

10 WHEREAS, The heavily fortified and armed German military
11 suddenly commenced the invasion of Poland and broke through
12 Polish defenses to advance on Warsaw; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite their disadvantageous deployment, the Polish
14 army fought tenaciously and inflicted serious casualties on the
15 Germans; and

16 WHEREAS, On September 28, 1939, after a month of valiant
17 resistance against German tyranny, the Polish army in Warsaw was

1 forced to surrender after experiencing heavy shelling and
2 bombing; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States formally entered World War II
4 after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, forcing
5 our nation into the war in both the Pacific and European
6 theaters; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1943, a series of planned uprisings known as
8 Operation Tempest transpired throughout German-controlled cities
9 in Poland; and

10 WHEREAS, Warsaw was not part of the initial operation, but
11 after the city's government was usurped in July 1944, civilians,
12 including women and children, took it upon themselves to defend
13 their city against the German army in what became known as the
14 Warsaw Uprising; and

15 WHEREAS, During the 63-day uprising, civilians took action to
16 protect their city and support their military by delivering
17 arms, supplies and messages and constructing defensive barriers;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Warsaw faced relentless airstrikes and subsequent
20 fires, forcing civilians from their homes; and

21 WHEREAS, Women cared after the soldiers but were also
22 involved in the fighting and made up one in seven combatants;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Morale among civilian volunteers waned as the battle
25 continued, and German forces regained control over parts of
26 Warsaw in September 1944, leading to the end of the uprising in
27 October; and

28 WHEREAS, Many civilians who had been caught in the crossfire
29 during the uprising were separated from their families or even
30 killed, as the death toll in this event exceeded 180,000 with

1 more than 11,000 Polish Home Army soldiers taken as prisoners of
2 war; and

3 WHEREAS, World War II lasted six years and spanned across
4 Europe, Africa and Asia, ending on September 2, 1945, after the
5 Allies, consisting of the United States, the Soviet Union, the
6 United Kingdom, China and Poland, among other signatory nations,
7 successfully defeated the Axis powers; and

8 WHEREAS, The Government of Poland, in a 1947 report, stated
9 that 6,028,000 Poles died as a result of World War II; and

10 WHEREAS, There are approximately 800,000 people of Polish
11 descent living in this Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Census previously identified
13 Luzerne County as the only county in the United States where a
14 plurality of residents report Polish heritage; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2021, Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties were among
16 the top six United States counties with the highest percentage
17 of their populations reporting Polish ancestry; and

18 WHEREAS, It is essential that we remember World War II and
19 the sacrifices and bravery of the Polish and Allied soldiers,
20 civilians, and all those who helped secure freedom and democracy
21 as we know it today; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
23 September 1, 2024, as "Polish Resistance in World War II
24 Commemoration Day" in Pennsylvania.