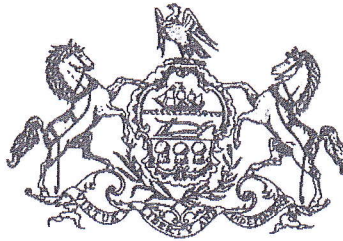


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House of Representatives
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July 12, 2012

MEMORANDUM:

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: Representative Vanessa Lowery Brown

RE: Resolution Recognizing Oct. 6, 2012 as "Indigenous People's Day" in Pennsylvania

I have drafted a resolution that I will soon introduce recognizing October 6, 2012 as "Indigenous People's Day" in Pennsylvania. I hope you will join me in sponsoring and supporting this resolution to honor the influence, contributions and resilience of indigenous communities within the fabric of the Commonwealth, both in its overall history and in its life today.

I have introduced and sponsored such a resolution in years past and do so again because I greatly believe efforts should occur to remember the sacrifices and achievements of Indigenous people and their role in the history of the Commonwealth, from before its founding to the current day.

For example, the Indigenous government under the Great Law of Peace of the Iroquois Confederacy influenced our forefathers and how they developed our system of government. Further, many of the names that we continue to use for the animals and plants that inhabit North America and thousands of the names of places throughout the Commonwealth and elsewhere originated with Indigenous people. Noting these and other contributions gives greater clarity to our shared history. It also can build an overall understanding of our origin. Further, it confirms to the many people within the Commonwealth, who can claim ancestry with Indigenous people, that their efforts do matter in celebrating and preserving the unique cultures and heritage that helped form the Commonwealth.

I hope you agree with the need for the resolution and contact Cameron Texter in the Democratic Office of Member Services at ctexter@pahouse.net about cosponsoring it. Thank you.