

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 626 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, READSHAW, DONATUCCI, HENNESSEY, TOOHIL,
SCHLOSSBERG, KIRKLAND, PASHINSKI, MURT, MILLARD, KINSEY,
DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE, SCHWEYER AND WATSON,
DECEMBER 6, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
DECEMBER 6, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of December 26, 2017, through January 1,
2 2018, as "Kwanzaa Week" in Pennsylvania, in recognition of
3 the cultural significance of this holiday for African people
4 throughout the world.

5 WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday which
6 celebrates family, community and culture and is observed each
7 year by millions throughout the world; and

8 WHEREAS, The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase matunda
9 ya kwanza, which means first fruits of the harvest in Swahili,
10 the most widely spoken African language; and

11 WHEREAS, First-fruits celebrations are recorded in African
12 history as early as ancient Egypt and Nubia and appear in
13 ancient and modern times in other classical African
14 civilizations, including Ashantiland and Yorubaland; and

15 WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday, not a religious one,
16 and is open to all religious faiths; and

17 WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is a profound expression of African people

1 being committed to their cultural values and heritage, an annual
2 reaffirmation of the bonds between them as a people and a
3 celebration of their history; and

4 WHEREAS, The Kwanzaa celebration was created to introduce and
5 reinforce the seven values of unity, self-determination,
6 collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics,
7 purpose, creativity and faith; and

8 WHEREAS, The Kwanzaa celebration is a time for commemorating
9 the past in pursuit of its lessons, celebrating the goodness of
10 life, family, community and culture and reaffirming the bonds
11 between people; and

12 WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is a time of special reverence for the
13 creator and creation in thanks for the blessings and bounty of
14 the earth; and

15 WHEREAS, The year 2017 marks the 51st anniversary of this
16 annual holiday; and

17 WHEREAS, This represents a time set aside for committing to
18 our highest ideals and an effort to bring forth the best in
19 African cultural practice; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
21 week of December 26, 2017, through January 1, 2018, as "Kwanzaa
22 Week" in Pennsylvania, in recognition of the cultural
23 significance of this holiday for African people throughout the
24 world.