
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 987 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ACOSTA, MILLARD, CALTAGIRONE, HENNESSEY,
YOUNGBLOOD, SAYLOR, DIGIROLAMO, GODSHALL, DAVIS, SCHLOSSBERG,
ROZZI, COOK-ARTIS, PASHINSKI, VEREB, KIRKLAND, DONATUCCI,
QUIGLEY, STURLA, W. KELLER, BURNS, GINGRICH, READSHAW,
WATSON, MATZIE, MARSICO, MAHONEY, DERMODY, MURT, M. DALEY,
ROSS, BULLOCK, MAJOR AND D. COSTA, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing September 15 through October 15, 2016, as "National
2 Hispanic Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania and honoring Diego
3 Castellanos in conjunction with this observance.

4 WHEREAS, "National Hispanic Heritage Month" further
5 commemorates the cultural diversity among Hispanic Americans,
6 who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central
7 America and South America; and

8 WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Month" originated in 1968 when
9 President Lyndon Johnson first proclaimed "National Hispanic
10 Heritage Week"; and

11 WHEREAS, To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the
12 Congress of the United States authorized and requested by Public
13 Law 100-402 that the President annually issue a proclamation
14 designating September 15 through October 15 as "National
15 Hispanic Heritage Month"; and

16 WHEREAS, As a nation, we celebrate our growing Hispanic

1 population and pay tribute to notable Hispanic Americans during
2 this period; and

3 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans now comprise the largest and
4 fastest-growing minority ethnic group in the United States, with
5 more than 50 million people of Hispanic or Latino origin; and

6 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth draws its strength from the
7 extraordinary diversity of its people and their cultural
8 customs; and

9 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is one of 16 states with nearly a
10 half-million Hispanic residents; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have
12 enriched the cultural diversity of this Commonwealth through
13 business, politics, education, sports and the arts; and

14 WHEREAS, Diego Castellanos is one of the best-known Hispanics
15 in the greater Philadelphia metropolitan area; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Castellanos is the host of a television show
17 "Puerto Rican Panorama," airing weekly since 1970, which
18 addresses Hispanic issues and Latin culture; and

19 WHEREAS, He is the first Hispanic and the only Puerto Rican
20 in the Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame; and

21 WHEREAS, There are approximately 1.2 million Hispanics or
22 Latinos who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Castellanos joins that esteemed group, having
24 served in the New Jersey Army National Guard, rising to the rank
25 of Sergeant First Class, and later graduating from the New
26 Jersey Military Academy, becoming an infantry commissioned
27 officer; and

28 WHEREAS, He worked for the New Jersey Department of Education
29 and drafted the bilingual education mandate, guiding the mandate
30 through the legislative process; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Castellanos managed the Office for Civil Rights
2 in the New Jersey Department of Education and was responsible
3 for school desegregation, including gender equity, affirmative
4 action, equal access for the handicapped and national origin
5 concerns in the educational process; and

6 WHEREAS, He served as chairman of a national advisory board
7 for the Children's Television Workshop and was responsible for
8 the show's bilingual format; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Castellanos has written or coauthored four
10 books, with *The Best of Two Worlds: Bilingual-Bicultural*
11 *Education in the U.S.* used by many colleges and universities in
12 the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives proudly notes our
14 Commonwealth's rich multicultural heritage; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
16 September 15 through October 15, 2016, as "National Hispanic
17 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania and honor Diego Castellanos in
18 conjunction with this observance.