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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 743 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY COHEN, BISHOP, B. BOYLE, K. BOYLE, BRENNAN,  
BRIGGS, V. BROWN, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, DePASQUALE,  
DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FLECK, FREEMAN, GEORGE,  
GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GROVE, HARKINS,  
HENNESSEY, HORNAMAN, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KILLION, MAHONEY, MAJOR,  
MANN, McGEEHAN, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOUL, NEILSON, M. O'BRIEN,  
O'NEILL, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYTON, READSHAW, SANTONI,  
SCAVELLO, STABACK, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, WATERS, WATSON,  
WILLIAMS AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 23, 2012

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 23,  
2012

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2012 as "Jewish American Heritage  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On April 20, 2006, after congressional resolutions  
4 introduced by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida  
5 and Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania urged the President to  
6 recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions  
7 to American culture, President George W. Bush designated May as  
8 Jewish American History Month; and

9 WHEREAS, President George Washington, who knew the importance  
10 of Jewish contributions to the War for Independence, wrote in a  
11 letter dated August 17, 1790, "May the children of the stock of  
12 Abraham who dwell in the land continue to merit and enjoy the  
13 goodwill of the other inhabitants. While everyone shall sit  
14 safely under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none

1 to make him afraid."; and

2 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania, Delaware, South Carolina and Georgia  
3 were first to eliminate barriers to voting and holding office  
4 for Jewish citizens, steps which were further upheld in the Bill  
5 of Rights of 1791; and

6 WHEREAS, There have been successive waves of Jewish  
7 emigration to the United States, including people from Germany  
8 during the 19th century, from Eastern Europe from 1880 though  
9 1914 fleeing pogroms, from Europe after World War II who  
10 survived the Holocaust, and, most recently, from the Soviet  
11 Union after 1970, all bringing individuals with talent, skills  
12 and drive who have enriched American culture; and

13 WHEREAS, The Library of Congress, National Archives and  
14 Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities,  
15 National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, United States  
16 Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Pennsylvania Historical and  
17 Museum Commission have joined in the 2012 efforts to pay tribute  
18 to the generations of Jewish Americans who have helped form the  
19 fabric of American history, culture and society, and resources  
20 for celebration have been provided at  
21 [www.jewishheritagemonth.gov](http://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov); therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
23 month of May 2012 as "Jewish American Heritage Month" in  
24 Pennsylvania and encourage participation in national, State and  
25 local observances celebrating the contributions of Jewish  
26 Americans to life in the United States.