

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 621 Session of  
2015

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, HENNESSEY, THOMAS, KIM, SCHLOSSBERG,  
ROZZI, VEREB, BULLOCK, BIZZARRO, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD,  
WHEELAND, C. PARKER, McCARTER, BISHOP, MILLARD, ROSS,  
NEILSON, CALTAGIRONE AND READSHAW, DECEMBER 16, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
DECEMBER 16, 2015

## A RESOLUTION

Designating the week of December 26, 2015, through January 1,  
2016, as "Kwanzaa Week" in Pennsylvania, in recognition of  
the cultural significance of this holiday for African people  
throughout the world.

WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday which  
celebrates family, community and culture and is observed each  
year by millions throughout the African community on all seven  
continents; and

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

WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday, not a religious  
holiday, and is open to all religious faiths from December 26 to  
January 1 each year; and

WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is a profound expression of African people  
being committed to their cultural values and heritage, an annual

1 reaffirmation of the bonds between them as a people and a  
2 celebration of their history; and

3 WHEREAS, The Kwanzaa celebration, with its emphasis on  
4 community, culture, history, values and family, speaks to  
5 African people throughout the world; and

6 WHEREAS, First-fruits celebrations are recorded in African  
7 history as early as ancient Egypt; and

8 WHEREAS, The Kwanzaa celebration is a time for commemorating  
9 the past and celebrating the goodness of life, family, community  
10 and culture, and a time for people to reaffirm the bonds between  
11 them; and

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

14 WHEREAS, This year's theme is "Embracing Kwanzaa's Principles  
15 and Practice: Creating and Celebrating the Good"; and

16 WHEREAS, It is estimated that roughly 18 million African  
17 Americans take part in the Kwanzaa celebration; and

18 WHEREAS, The year 2015 marks the 49th anniversary of this  
19 annual holiday; and

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

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
24 week of December 26, 2015, through January 1, 2016, as "Kwanzaa  
25 Week" in Pennsylvania, in recognition of the cultural  
26 significance of this holiday for African people throughout the  
27 world.