
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 94 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY MICCARELLI, SANTORA, SCHLOSSBERG, JAMES, CHARLTON,
MURT, DIGIROLAMO, WATSON, SCHWEYER, FREEMAN, MILLARD,
CALTAGIRONE, DAVIDSON, BARRAR, KORTZ, D. COSTA, NEILSON,
GABLER AND BIZZARRO, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 21, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 13, 2017, as the observance of "Vaisakhi" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Vaisakhi is a holiday observed by Sikhs throughout
4 the world, celebrating the spring harvest and commemorating the
5 1699 gathering at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab, India, when the
6 founding of the Sikh family of soldier saints known as Khalsa
7 Panth occurred; and

8 WHEREAS, The Sikh faith, which was established in the Punjab
9 region of India in the 1400s, persevered and expanded, with Guru
10 Gobind Singh founding the Khalsa Panth, a new order of Sikhism,
11 in 1699; and

12 WHEREAS, The Sikh people have a renowned military history
13 marked by gallantry and self-sacrifice that is epitomized by the
14 heroic last stand at the Battle of Saragarhi; and

15 WHEREAS, The Battle of Saragarhi was fought on September 12,
16 1897, between the 36th Sikh Regiment of British India, defending

1 an army post, and 10,000 Afghan and Orakzai tribesmen; and
2 WHEREAS, When the British commander notified the 21 Sikhs,
3 led by Havildar Ishar Singh, that timely reinforcement was
4 impossible, they chose not to abandon the fort but instead to
5 stand and fight to the death; and

6 WHEREAS, Details of the fight were continuously relayed to
7 the command as the Sikhs died gallantly, one by one, delaying
8 the Afghan attack so severely that the invading force was
9 eventually repulsed; and

10 WHEREAS, The British Parliament rendered the Sikhs a standing
11 ovation upon hearing the accounts and Queen Victoria stated,
12 "The British, as well as the Indians, are proud of the 36th Sikh
13 Regiments. It is no exaggeration to record that the armies which
14 possess the valiant Sikhs cannot face defeat in war"; and

15 WHEREAS, All 21 Sikhs who died at Saragarhi were awarded the
16 Indian Order of Merit, equivalent to the Victoria Cross; and

17 WHEREAS, Today the Sikh people, now numbering in the tens of
18 millions worldwide, mark Vaisakhi with parades, dancing, singing
19 and other festivities; and

20 WHEREAS, The Sikh community of Pennsylvania, part of the rich
21 cultural fabric of this Commonwealth, makes many valuable
22 contributions as its members work in a variety of professions
23 and businesses and contribute to their local communities;
24 therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April
26 13, 2017, as the observance of "Vaisakhi" in Pennsylvania.