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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 166 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY MACKENZIE, BIZZARRO, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE,  
CHARLTON, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, DUSH,  
FREEMAN, GILLEN, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, JAMES, W. KELLER,  
KNOWLES, LONGIETTI, MARSICO, MATZIE, McNEILL, MILLARD, MURT,  
NEILSON, O'NEILL, PICKETT, ROTHMAN, SAINATO, SCHLOSSBERG,  
SCHWEYER, SONNEY, TOOIL, WARD AND WATSON, MARCH 20, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 20, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2017 as "Greek-American Heritage  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania and recognizing the constructive role  
3 Greek Americans continue to play in the economic and cultural  
4 development of our nation and this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, The 2010 census identified more than 1.3 million  
6 people of Greek ancestry in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Greek Americans remain proud of their heritage by  
8 passing their traditions and loyalty to the United States on to  
9 new generations of Greek Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, "Greek Independence Day" is a national holiday that  
11 commemorates the start of the Greek War of Independence in 1821  
12 and is celebrated annually in Greece on March 25; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1821, the Greek Commander-in-Chief Petros  
14 Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, remarked to  
15 citizens of the United States that "it is in your land that  
16 liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall

1 imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we  
2 succeed in resembling you"; and

3 WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of our nation, many of whom  
4 read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek, drew upon  
5 the experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our  
6 nation's representative democracy; and

7 WHEREAS, The modern Greek national anthem, "Hymn to Liberty,"  
8 illustrates Greece's strong bond with and respect for our nation  
9 and ideals by including the words "most heartily was gladdened  
10 George Washington's brave land"; and

11 WHEREAS, Ancient Greeks in the city-state of Athens made  
12 vital contributions to democratic governance by inventing the  
13 concept of citizenship where laws were proposed by citizen  
14 assemblies and subject to popular vote, by recognizing the  
15 principle of separation of powers in independent Athenian  
16 legislative, executive and judicial branches and by conceiving  
17 and implementing the concept of trial by jury; and

18 WHEREAS, Sir Winston Churchill said of the Greeks, "Hence, we  
19 will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes  
20 fight like Greeks," recognizing that Greece played a major role  
21 in World War II by delaying the German invasion of Russia; and

22 WHEREAS, Greek Americans served with distinction in all  
23 branches of the United States military during World War II and,  
24 through the American Hellenic Educational Progressive  
25 Association, raised more than \$263 million in war bonds for the  
26 United States; and

27 WHEREAS, Throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of only  
28 three nations to ally with the United States in every major  
29 international conflict, and to this day, the Greek nation  
30 remains a reliable strategic partner and steadfast ally of the

1 United States; and

2 WHEREAS, Greek Americans continue to demonstrate loyalty to  
3 the United States and the ideals of our Founding Fathers;  
4 therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
6 month of March 2017 as "Greek-American Heritage Month" in  
7 Pennsylvania; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
9 residents to recognize the constructive role Greek Americans  
10 continue to play in the economic and cultural development of our  
11 nation and this Commonwealth.