

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 823 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, BERNSTINE, FREEMAN, KAUFER, SCHLOSSBERG, SOLOMON, MADDEN, DONATUCCI, STAATS, SAMUELSON, METZGAR, MUSTIO, NEILSON, PASHINSKI, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DAVIS, GREINER, HENNESSEY, CHARLTON, SIMS, ROTHMAN, JAMES, MALONEY, MARSHALL, HANNA, TOEPEL, VITALI, YOUNGBLOOD, KINSEY, STURLA, B. MILLER, WARD, BOYLE, BURNS, LONGIETTI, R. BROWN, DEAN, DeLUCA, BARBIN, READSHAW, HEFFLEY, QUIGLEY, J. McNEILL, RYAN, ENGLISH, DRISCOLL, GROVE, McCLINTON, SAYLOR, A. HARRIS, MARSICO, DIGIROLAMO, CONKLIN, CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, V. BROWN, SCHWEYER AND GOODMAN, APRIL 10, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 10, 2018

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 8 through 15, 2018, as "Days of Remembrance of  
2 the Victims of the Holocaust" and recognizing April 12, 2018,  
3 as "Holocaust Remembrance Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The Holocaust, one of the darkest chapters in human  
5 history, was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and  
6 annihilation of the European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its  
7 collaborators between 1933 and 1945; and

8 WHEREAS, During the Holocaust, 6 million Jews were murdered,  
9 many by bullets from the Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing units)  
10 or in the gas chambers of the concentration camps; and

11 WHEREAS, The word "Holocaust" is Greek in origin and means  
12 "sacrifice by fire"; and

13 WHEREAS, The Nazi's suspension of basic civil rights occurred  
14 within days of Hitler's accession to power in January 1933; and

1 WHEREAS, From 1933 until the outbreak of war in 1939, the  
2 first six years of Adolph Hitler's dictatorship in Germany, Jews  
3 felt the effects of more than 400 decrees and regulations that  
4 restricted all aspects of their public and private lives; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1933, the Jewish population in Europe was  
6 estimated to be more than 9 million; and

7 WHEREAS, By 1945, the Nazis and their collaborators killed  
8 nearly two out of every three European Jews as part of their  
9 "Final Solution"; and

10 WHEREAS, Millions of persons, including Roma (Gypsies),  
11 persons with disabilities, gays and lesbians, Jehovah's  
12 Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, political dissidents and  
13 nearly 2 million Poles, were also targeted for destruction or  
14 decimation for racial, ethnic or national reasons; and

15 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth was founded on the principles of  
16 religious freedom and tolerance; and

17 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth should remember the  
18 atrocities committed by the Nazis so that these horrors are  
19 never repeated; and

20 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth should continually  
21 rededicate themselves to the principle of equal justice for all;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth should remain  
24 vigilant against all tyranny and recognize that bigotry provides  
25 a breeding ground for tyranny to flourish; and

26 WHEREAS, In the 1930s and the 1940s, Pennsylvanians rescued  
27 children from Europe, led efforts to publicize the horrors of  
28 the Holocaust during the war, liberated concentration camps and  
29 prosecuted those who committed these evil acts in the Nuremberg  
30 Trials; and

1 WHEREAS, Nearly 1,000 Pennsylvanians who are Holocaust  
2 survivors have contributed their oral histories of the Holocaust  
3 to the USC Shoah Foundation, created by Steven Spielberg, and  
4 have told their stories in schools and in communities across  
5 this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians have established Holocaust museums,  
7 educational programs, monuments and commemorations throughout  
8 this Commonwealth, engaging Jews, Christians, Muslims and all  
9 people of good will; and

10 WHEREAS, With the help of the children and grandchildren of  
11 Holocaust survivors and liberators, Pennsylvanians can continue  
12 to rededicate themselves to the principle of equal justice for  
13 all; and

14 WHEREAS, The General Assembly passed Act 70 of 2014 to  
15 provide for curriculum guidelines that would complement the  
16 stories of Pennsylvania's Holocaust survivors and the efforts of  
17 their children and grandchildren to teach our students about the  
18 Holocaust; and

19 WHEREAS, A recent survey reported that 710 of the State's 775  
20 school entities now provide age-appropriate education on the  
21 Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations as a standing  
22 part of their curricula; and

23 WHEREAS, April 12, 2018, which corresponds to the 27th day of  
24 Nisan on the Hebrew calendar, has been designated  
25 internationally as a "Day of Remembrance of Victims of the Nazi  
26 Holocaust" and is also known as Yom Hashoah; and

27 WHEREAS, This date further coincides with the anniversary of  
28 the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in German-occupied Poland which  
29 occurred from April 19 through May 16, 1943; and

30 WHEREAS, It is appropriate for the people of this

1 Commonwealth to join in the international commemoration of this  
2 solemn event; and

3 WHEREAS, By marking this occasion and honoring the memory of  
4 the millions of victims of the Holocaust, the House of  
5 Representatives hopes to overcome prejudice and inhumanity  
6 through education, vigilance and resistance; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April 8  
8 through 15, 2018, as "Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the  
9 Holocaust" and recognize April 12, 2018, as "Holocaust  
10 Remembrance Day" in Pennsylvania.