
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 49

Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY NEILSON, SCHLOSSBERG, FRANKEL, STAATS, HILL-EVANS,
SAYLOR, DONATUCCI, READSHAW, MURT, HENNESSEY, BIZZARRO,
BROWN, LONGIETTI, THOMAS, RYAN, TOEPEL, BURNS, SONNEY,
YOUNGBLOOD, KAUFFMAN, PASHINSKI, MACKENZIE, BARRAR, EVERETT,
SAPPEY, DIGIROLAMO, KINSEY, SCHMITT, CIRESI, MENTZER,
GOODMAN, ZIMMERMAN, KORTZ, SANCHEZ, CONKLIN, SCHWEYER,
FREEMAN, WARREN, CALTAGIRONE, B. MILLER, MARKOSEK, F. KELLER,
DRISCOLL AND DeLUCA, JANUARY 25, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 25, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 27, 2019, as "International Holocaust
2 Remembrance Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic
4 persecution and murder of an estimated 17 million people by the
5 German Nazi regime, under the leadership of Adolf Hitler,
6 between 1933 and 1945; and

7 WHEREAS, Upon the rise of the Nazi regime in 1933, the party
8 gave political expression to theories of racism against the
9 Jewish population and gained popularity by disseminating anti-
10 Jewish propaganda and ordering anti-Jewish economic boycotts,
11 staging book burnings and enacting discriminatory anti-Jewish
12 legislation such as the Nuremberg Laws which, in 1935, provided
13 the legal framework for the systemic persecution of the Jewish
14 people; and

1 WHEREAS, The Holocaust began with grievous abuses of power
2 and what would be referred to today as gross human rights
3 violations before escalating into war and genocide; and

4 WHEREAS, German Nazis not only targeted the European Jewish
5 population, but countless others, including Romani, mentally and
6 physically disabled individuals, homosexuals, Poles, Communists,
7 Soviet citizens, Socialists and Jehovah's Witnesses, due to
8 perceived racial and biological inferiority and on political,
9 ideological and behavioral grounds; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1933, the Jewish population of Europe stood at
11 more than 9 million but by the liberation of the Auschwitz-
12 Birkenau concentration camp in 1945, the Germans and their
13 collaborators had killed approximately 6 million Jewish men,
14 women and children as part of the "Final Solution" policy the
15 Nazi regime developed in an effort to eradicate the Jewish
16 population; and

17 WHEREAS, The Holocaust was a unique and undeniable tragedy
18 and human rights crisis that was perpetrated upon millions of
19 innocent victims; and

20 WHEREAS, On January 27, 1945, Soviet soldiers opened the
21 gates to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest and deadliest
22 concentration camp, and liberated more than 6,000 prisoners,
23 most of whom were ill and dying due to the horrors they were
24 subjected to by their captors; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2005, in commemoration of the importance and
26 significance of that event, the General Assembly of the United
27 Nations adopted a resolution establishing January 27 as
28 "International Holocaust Remembrance Day"; and

29 WHEREAS, January 27 serves as both a day on which the lives
30 of those who perished during the Holocaust are honored and on

1 which a commitment to human rights is reasserted by rejecting
2 any denial of the Holocaust as a historical event and educating
3 new generations of the atrocities that transpired in an effort
4 to prevent future acts of genocide from occurring; and

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the United Nations also
6 encourages, as part of its original declaration in 2005, that
7 this day be used to condemn all manifestations of religious
8 intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against
9 individuals or communities based on ethnic origin or religious
10 belief, whenever they occur; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize January
12 27, 2019, as "International Holocaust Remembrance Day" in
13 Pennsylvania.