
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 353 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MERSKI, HILL-EVANS, HARKINS, BIZZARRO, BARRAR,
SCHLOSSBERG, JAMES, CALTAGIRONE, KULIK, WILLIAMS, MILLARD,
LONGIETTI, RYAN, BURNS, ROTHMAN, VITALI, READSHAW,
YOUNGBLOOD, FREEMAN, STAATS, MALAGARI, PICKETT, KORTZ,
BOBACK, MULLERY AND GROVE, MAY 29, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 29, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating 100 years of diplomatic relations between Poland
2 and the United States and recognizing the strong Polish-
3 American community in this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, In January of 1919, the Republic of Poland and the
5 United States established diplomatic relations with the hope of
6 the betterment of political, economic, religious and human
7 rights for both countries; and

8 WHEREAS, The first Polish ambassador to the United States,
9 Prince Kazimierz Lubomirski, presented his credentials to
10 President Woodrow Wilson on May 15, 1920; and

11 WHEREAS, Over the decades, the strength of Polish-American
12 relations varied, enduring the Cold War; and

13 WHEREAS, Upon the fall of communism, Poland regained full
14 sovereignty and joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
15 (NATO) and the European Union (EU); and

16 WHEREAS, Poland's decision to align itself with the western

1 path further strengthened the Polish-American diplomatic
2 relations, opening a new platform for economic and cultural
3 growth; and

4 WHEREAS, As the 10th-largest European economy, Poland is a
5 large and important commercial partner of the United States in
6 Central Europe; and

7 WHEREAS, The Polish-American cultural connection lies within
8 strong student exchange programs and academic scholarships to
9 study abroad; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States-Poland Fullbright Program is the
11 largest and longest running of any academic exchange program in
12 Central Europe, celebrating 60 years this year; and

13 WHEREAS, The Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) offers 30
14 scholarships a year for Polish students to travel and live in
15 the United States with an American family during their studies;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 9 million Poles living in the
18 United States, with Pennsylvania traditionally ranking high
19 among other states for its large Polish population; and

20 WHEREAS, The Polish American Association (PAA) was
21 established in 1922 to provide immigrants with programs and
22 services to help Poles adapt to their new lives in America; and

23 WHEREAS, The PAA has focused on education, employment,
24 immigration and supportive services for more than 95 years,
25 fostering a strong Polish-American community; and

26 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, the Polish Cultural
27 Association of Harrisburg was founded in the mid-1970s with the
28 goal of cultivating, enhancing and promoting the understanding
29 of the Polish language, culture and arts; and

30 WHEREAS, The Polish community also established the Polish

1 Heritage Society of Philadelphia, an organization devoted to
2 fostering interest in Polish heritage and spreading awareness of
3 the accomplishments of Polish-Americans; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate 100
5 years of diplomatic relations between Poland and the United
6 States; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the members of the strong Polish-American
8 community in this Commonwealth be recognized for the work they
9 have done to foster and preserve their culture and heritage.