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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 505 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY QUINN, BARRAR, DIGIROLAMO, MEHAFFIE, MURT,  
STEPHENS, WHITE, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, HILL-EVANS, BIZZARRO,  
SANCHEZ, MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG, HOHENSTEIN, FREEMAN,  
CALTAGIRONE, KIM, READSHAW, HANBIDGE AND O'MARA,  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating November 12, 2019, the 550th anniversary of the  
2 birth of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, as "World  
3 Equality Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is enriched by the diversity of its  
5 residents, who have cultivated a climate of social tolerance and  
6 intellectual pluralism that has sustained this Commonwealth  
7 throughout its history; and

8 WHEREAS, The Sikh community, which originated in Punjab,  
9 South Asia, and began immigrating to the United States more than  
10 100 years ago, has played an important role in developing this  
11 country and this Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, Sikhism is the world's fifth largest religion with  
13 nearly 30 million adherents, including approximately 700,000 in  
14 the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, A holistic understanding of peace, supported by  
16 ideas of equality and fraternity is part of the Sikh tradition  
17 and the very origin of Sikhism is linked to overcoming communal

1 hatred and divisions; and

2 WHEREAS, The year 2019 carries a lot of significance for the  
3 Sikhs across the globe due to the 550th anniversary of the birth  
4 of the founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak; and

5 WHEREAS, Guru Nanak, who lived from 1469 until 1539, was one  
6 of the greatest religious innovators of all time and his most  
7 famous teaching was that there is one God, named Truth, who is  
8 eternal, formless and obtained only through His grace; and

9 WHEREAS, Guru Nanak preached to his followers to meditate and  
10 remember God, earn their living by honest means and share with  
11 the less fortunate; and

12 WHEREAS, Guru Nanak was an original spiritual thinker and  
13 expressed his thoughts in extraordinary poetry that forms the  
14 basis of Sikh scripture, Guru Granth Sahib; and

15 WHEREAS, Guru Nanak was Southeast Asia's Renaissance Reformer  
16 and his teachings denounced the caste system and taught that  
17 everyone is equal, regardless of caste, creed or gender; and

18 WHEREAS, Guru Nanak's message was to recognize the entire  
19 human race as one and he openly criticized caste and gender  
20 inequalities, declaring that all men and women were equal;  
21 therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
23 November 12, 2019, the 550th anniversary of the birth of Guru  
24 Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, as "World Equality Day" in  
25 Pennsylvania.