

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 658 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY NEILSON, BIZZARRO, HILL-EVANS, JONES, McNEILL, SHUSTERMAN, HARKINS, KAUFFMAN, FREEMAN, READSHAW, SCHLEGEL, CULVER, TOEPEL, STAATS, LONGIETTI, SAINATO, SONNEY, RYAN, MIZGORSKI, SCHLOSSBERG, WILLIAMS, PASHINSKI, BROWN, MACKENZIE, THOMAS, SAYLOR, BERNSTINE, SCHMITT, HOWARD, KORTZ, DONATUCCI, MENTZER, JOZWIAK, SOLOMON, MURT, BURNS, YOUNGBLOOD, KIM, O'MARA, MILLARD, WARREN, DeLUCA, GOODMAN, B. MILLER, CIRESI AND GAYDOS, JANUARY 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 13, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 27, 2020, 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

15 WHEREAS, The Holocaust began with grievous abuses of power

1 and what would be referred to today as gross human rights  
2 violations before escalating into war and genocide; and

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, January 27 serves as both a day on which the lives  
29 of those who perished during the Holocaust are honored and on  
30 which a commitment to human rights is reasserted by rejecting

1 any denial of the Holocaust as a historical event and educating  
2 new generations of the atrocities that transpired in an effort  
3 to prevent future acts of genocide from occurring; and

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

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize January  
11 27, 2020, as "International Holocaust Remembrance Day" in  
12 Pennsylvania.