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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 719 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY BURGOS, KORTZ, DONATUCCI, KAUFFMAN, KIM, HILL-  
EVANS, FREEMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, CRUZ, KINSEY, VITALI,  
HOHENSTEIN, MILLARD, NEILSON, HEFFLEY, MULLERY, KOSIEROWSKI,  
YOUNGBLOOD, DELLOSO, DEASY, MURT, HOWARD, GAINNEY, McCLINTON,  
GALLOWAY, ROEBUCK, SCHWEYER, MALAGARI, TOOHL AND CIRESI,  
FEBRUARY 4, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 27, 2020, as "Dominican Republic  
2 Independence Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On February 27, 2020, the Dominican Republic is  
4 celebrating the anniversary of its independence from Haiti in  
5 1844; and

6 WHEREAS, Before the Dominican Republic declared its  
7 independence, the shared island of Hispaniola had been under  
8 Haitian rule for more than two decades after centuries of  
9 colonialism, first by the Spanish and then by the French; and

10 WHEREAS, Nationalist Juan Pablo Duarte helped organize the  
11 war against the Haitian regime and is considered one of the  
12 Dominican Republic's founding fathers; and

13 WHEREAS, "Dominican Republic Independence Day" coincides with  
14 Carnival, which is celebrated the entire month of February with  
15 parades, competitions and spirited events; and

16 WHEREAS, The Dominican Republic is an important partner to

1 the United States in hemispheric affairs due to its standing as  
2 the Caribbean's second-largest economy and third-largest country  
3 in terms of population and land mass, its large bilateral trade  
4 with the United States and its proximity to the United States  
5 and other Caribbean nations; and

6 WHEREAS, The family unit within Dominican society is  
7 incredibly important and has formed the basis of stability  
8 throughout all of the Dominican Republic's political and  
9 economic upheaval; and

10 WHEREAS, Whenever possible, the extended family, which  
11 usually encompasses three generations, lives within the same  
12 vicinity; and

13 WHEREAS, Family loyalty is a deeply ingrained characteristic  
14 of the Dominican people; and

15 WHEREAS, The Dominican Republic is well-known as the homeland  
16 of much of Major League Baseball, but it is also known for  
17 fashion designer Oscar de la Renta, "Orange is The New Black"  
18 actress Dascha Polanco, Maryland State Delegate Joseline Peña-  
19 Melnyk, NASA aerospace engineer and inventor Dr. Victor Carreño,  
20 Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Junot Díaz and countless other  
21 accomplished individuals; and

22 WHEREAS, Dominicans are the fifth-largest population of  
23 Hispanic origin living in the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, The Dominican-American community contributes to our  
25 nation's economic vitality and culture while maintaining a deep  
26 connection with its Dominican roots; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize  
28 February 27, 2020, as "Dominican Republic Independence Day" in  
29 Pennsylvania.