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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 846 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY QUINN, APRIL 16, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 16, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2020 as "Sikh Heritage Month" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Sikhism is one of the most widely practiced  
4 religions in the world; and

5 WHEREAS, Today there are approximately 30 million Sikhs  
6 worldwide and an estimated 700,000 Sikh Americans; and

7 WHEREAS, Sikhs have been living in the United States for more  
8 than 100 years, and, during the early 20th century, thousands of  
9 Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines and on  
10 the Oregon Pacific and Eastern Railroad; and

11 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions and make  
12 rich contributions to the social, cultural and economic vibrancy  
13 of the United States, including as members of the United States  
14 Armed Forces, and contribute significantly to agriculture,  
15 information technology, small businesses, the hotel industry,  
16 trucking, medicine and technology; and

17 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have distinguished themselves by  
18 fostering respect among all people through faith and service;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, This year marks the 551st birth year of the founder  
3 of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, and is celebrated as Guru Nanak Prakash  
4 Utsav; and

5 WHEREAS, Sikhs celebrate four of the main festivals as  
6 Gurupurab, and this collective celebration is one of the most  
7 sacred festivals on the Sikh calendar and marks the important  
8 incidents in the lives of the Gurus; and

9 WHEREAS, Vaisakhi, also known as Baisakhi, is one of the most  
10 historically significant days of the year, marking the start of  
11 a new year for Sikhs and is celebrated on April 14; and

12 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is committed to educating citizens  
13 about the world's religions, the value of religious diversity,  
14 tolerance grounded in First Amendment principles, a culture of  
15 mutual understanding and the diminution of violence; and

16 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth seeks to further the diversity of  
17 its communities and afford all residents the opportunity to  
18 better understand, recognize and appreciate the rich history and  
19 shared experiences of Sikh Americans; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
21 month of April 2020 as "Sikh Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.