
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 67 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, FARNESE, FONTANA, STREET, BREWSTER,
DINNIMAN, BROWNE, SANTARSIERO, COSTA, PHILLIPS-HILL, SCHWANK,
MENSCH, KILLION, SABATINA, TARTAGLIONE, J. WARD AND BLAKE,
APRIL 8, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 8, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2019 as "Jazz Appreciation Month"
2 in Pennsylvania and the contributions of Nat King Cole for
3 defying racial prejudices and bringing jazz to audiences
4 worldwide.

5 WHEREAS, "Jazz Appreciation Month," known as JAM, was created
6 in 2001 at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History
7 to herald and celebrate the extraordinary heritage and history
8 of jazz in the month of April; and

9 WHEREAS, JAM is intended to stimulate and encourage people of
10 all ages to participate in jazz, study the music, attend
11 concerts, listen to recordings and read books about jazz; and

12 WHEREAS, This year, JAM celebrates jazz beyond borders by
13 looking at the dynamic ways jazz has united people across
14 culture and geography by sparking important discussion around
15 diversity, identity, diplomacy and innovation; and

16 WHEREAS, The featured artist for this year's JAM will be Nat
17 King Cole for his work as an innovative artist, world influencer
18 and dynamic performer; and

1 WHEREAS, Nathaniel Adams Coles, better known professionally
2 as Nat King Cole, was born March 17, 1919, in Montgomery,
3 Alabama; and

4 WHEREAS, Raised in Chicago, Illinois, Cole's introduction to
5 music began early, where by 12 years of age he sang and played
6 organ in the church where his father was pastor; and

7 WHEREAS, Inspired by Earl Hines, Cole began his performing
8 career while still a teenager, joining his brother Eddie Cole,
9 during which time he adopted the name "Nat Cole"; and

10 WHEREAS, Later, the "King Cole Trio" was formed, with Nat
11 King Cole emerging as a vocalist, as well as a talented pianist;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, In 1944, Cole performed in the first "Jazz at the
14 Philharmonic" concerts; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1946, the King Cole Trio broadcast the "King Cole
16 Trio Time," which was the first radio program to be sponsored by
17 a black musician; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1956, Cole became the first African American to
19 host a television program when "The Nat 'King' Cole Show"
20 debuted on NBC; and

21 WHEREAS, Cole opposed racial segregation, joining other
22 entertainers in boycotting segregated venues and was a lifetime
23 member of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP; and

24 WHEREAS, Cole pushed through boundaries of racial prejudice
25 to become one of the most successful artists of his time; and

26 WHEREAS, Cole was both internationally and nationally
27 acclaimed, recording over 150 *Billboard* charting singles, and
28 was posthumously awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement award,
29 inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and inducted into
30 the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and

1 WHEREAS, Jazz is a vital part of American culture and has
2 been a gift to the world; and

3 WHEREAS, Jazz is a part of the rich and diverse musical
4 background of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of April 2019
6 as "Jazz Appreciation Month" in Pennsylvania and the
7 contributions of Nat King Cole for defying racial prejudices and
8 bringing jazz to audiences worldwide.