
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 272 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, MASTRIANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, DINNIMAN,
BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, J. WARD, MARTIN AND COSTA,
NOVEMBER 15, 2019

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2019 as "Victims of Communism
2 Memorial Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The year 2017 marked 100 years since the Bolshevik
4 Revolution in Russia resulting in the world's first communist
5 regime under Vladimir Lenin, which led to decades of oppression
6 and violence under communist regimes throughout the world; and

7 WHEREAS, Based on the philosophy of Karl Marx, communism has
8 proven incompatible with the ideals of liberty, prosperity and
9 dignity of human life and has given rise to such infamous
10 totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Ho Chi
11 Minh, Pol Pot, Nicolae Ceaușescu, the Castro brothers and the
12 Kim dynasty; and

13 WHEREAS, President Donald Trump declared November 7, 2017, as
14 the "National Day for the Victims of Communism," condemning
15 communism as a political philosophy "incompatible with liberty,
16 prosperity and the dignity of human life"; and

17 WHEREAS, The bipartisan United States Congressional Victims

1 of Communism Caucus stated publicly in 2018 that "Marx's
2 defenders often say he cannot be held accountable for what
3 communist regimes did long after his life and death; but Marxist
4 dictators who massacred their own people were applying communist
5 ideology to political practice"; and

6 WHEREAS, Communist regimes worldwide have killed more than
7 100 million people and subjected countless others to the worst
8 and widest-spread human rights abuses known to history, with
9 victims representing many different ethnicities, creeds and
10 backgrounds; and

11 WHEREAS, Through false promises of equality and liberation,
12 communist regimes have, as a matter of government policy, robbed
13 their own citizens of the rights of freedom of religion, freedom
14 of speech and freedom of association through coercion, brutality
15 and fear; and

16 WHEREAS, Many victims of communism were persecuted as
17 political prisoners for speaking out against these regimes and
18 others were killed in genocidal, state-sponsored purges; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to violating basic human rights,
20 communist regimes have suppressed freedom of conscience,
21 cultural life and self-determination movements in more than 40
22 nations; and

23 WHEREAS, The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in
24 Washington, DC, a nonprofit organization authorized by a
25 unanimous act of the United States Congress, educates people
26 about the ideology, history and legacy of communism and honors
27 those who have suffered and died under communist regimes;
28 therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
30 designate the month of November 2019 as "Victims of Communism

1 Memorial Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Senate of the
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania transmit a copy of this resolution
4 to the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation so that members
5 of the organization may be apprised of the Commonwealth's action
6 on this matter; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Senate of the
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania post this designation on the
9 publicly accessible Internet website of the Senate.