

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 417 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY YOUNG, MAYES, HILL-EVANS, OTTEN, KHAN, WAXMAN, GIRAL, KINSEY, BURGOS, ISAACSON, M. JONES, BOYD, SANCHEZ, HOHENSTEIN, VITALI, PARKER, D. WILLIAMS, DALEY, CIRESI, SCOTT AND GREEN, MAY 3, 2024

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 21, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 8, 2024, as "Marian Anderson Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Marian Anderson was born February 27, 1897, in  
4 Philadelphia; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1919, Marian Anderson won the first scholarship  
6 awarded by the National Association of Negro Musicians; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1924, Marian Anderson was the first African-  
8 American artist to sign with RCA Victor Recording Company; and

9 WHEREAS, After winning a musical competition, Marian Anderson  
10 became the first African-American artist to solo with the New  
11 York Philharmonic on August 26, 1925; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1936, Marian Anderson was the first African  
13 American to be invited to perform at the White House; and

14 WHEREAS, Even though she was quite famous at the time,  
15 Marian Anderson was still denied rooms or service at certain  
16 hotels and restaurants while touring across the country; and

1       WHEREAS, Nevertheless, Marian Anderson was hosted on many  
2 occasions by Albert Einstein; and

3       WHEREAS, On Easter Sunday 1939, after being granted approval  
4 from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Marian Anderson became the  
5 first individual to perform solo at the Lincoln Memorial, which  
6 took place in front of an integrated audience of more than  
7 75,000 people and was heard by millions of people on the radio;  
8 and

9       WHEREAS, Marian Anderson continued to break borders for Black  
10 artists by entertaining the troops in hospitals and bases during  
11 World War II and the Korean War; and

12       WHEREAS, In 1941, Marian Anderson received the Edward Bok  
13 Award for distinguished service to the City of Philadelphia; and

14       WHEREAS, In 1955, Marian Anderson broke the color barrier by  
15 becoming the first African American to perform on the main stage  
16 at the Metropolitan Opera; and

17       WHEREAS, Marian Anderson sang at the inaugurations of  
18 President Dwight D. Eisenhower and President John F. Kennedy;  
19 and

20       WHEREAS, Marian Anderson was officially appointed goodwill  
21 ambassador to the United Nations by President Dwight D.  
22 Eisenhower; and

23       WHEREAS, In 1963, Marian Anderson received the Presidential  
24 Medal of Freedom from President John F. Kennedy; and

25       WHEREAS, In 1984, Marian Anderson was the first recipient of  
26 the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award of the City of New  
27 York; and

28       WHEREAS, Marian Anderson has been awarded honorary doctoral  
29 degrees from Howard University, Temple University and Smith  
30 College; and

1       WHEREAS, Marian Anderson retired from singing in 1965, and  
2 her achievements were honored with many recognitions, including  
3 the Congressional Gold Medal in 1977, Kennedy Center Honors in  
4 1978, the George Peabody Medal in 1981, the National Medal of  
5 Arts in 1986 and a Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement in  
6 1991; and

7       WHEREAS, Marian Anderson died of congestive heart failure on  
8 April 8, 1993, at 96 years of age; ~~therefore be it~~ AND       <--

9       WHEREAS, ON JUNE 8, 2024, THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA WILL  
10 REDEDICATE ITS HOME, VERIZON HALL, AS THE FIRST MAJOR  
11 PERFORMANCE SPACE NAMED MARIAN ANDERSON HALL, 85 YEARS AFTER  
12 MARIAN ANDERSON WAS DENIED ACCESS TO CONSTITUTION HALL BECAUSE  
13 OF HER RACE; THEREFORE BE IT

14       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June 8,  
15 2024, as "Marian Anderson Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
16 further

17       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize Marian  
18 Anderson as a role model for young women, especially women of  
19 color; and be it further

20       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the legacy  
21 of Marian Anderson, not only as one of the best contraltos of  
22 the 20th century, but as a civil rights icon and native  
23 Philadelphian.