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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 493 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY MALAGARI, HILL-EVANS, FREEMAN, VENKAT, McNEILL,  
HADDOCK, KINSEY, WEBSTER, PICKETT, R. MACKENZIE, GIRAL,  
SCHMITT, SANCHEZ, NEILSON, MENTZER, MERSKI, GUENST, KHAN,  
CONKLIN, ZIMMERMAN AND DALEY, JULY 2, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT, JULY 2, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 6, 2024, as "German American Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On October 6, 1683, 13 families, having sailed  
4 earlier from the German City of Krefeld, established Germantown,  
5 Pennsylvania, the first German settlement in America; and

6 WHEREAS, Germantown became the first American community to  
7 formally protest the evils of slavery in 1688; and

8 WHEREAS, Between the 1680s and the American Revolution, the  
9 majority of an estimated 100,000 German immigrants coming to  
10 North America settled in Pennsylvania, comprising a third of  
11 Philadelphia's population by the 1760s; and

12 WHEREAS, In the many years since, millions of German  
13 immigrants have come to the United States and this Commonwealth  
14 in pursuit of personal and religious freedoms and economic  
15 opportunity; and

16 WHEREAS, Their descendants continue to shape the cultural

1 landscape of this Commonwealth, with more than 2.7 million  
2 Pennsylvanians reporting German ancestry, making it the largest  
3 ancestry group in this Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, Established in 1764, the German Society of  
5 Pennsylvania is the oldest German organization in the United  
6 States and serves the State's German-American community; and

7 WHEREAS, The German Society of Pennsylvania, based in  
8 Philadelphia, seeks to foster a better understanding between the  
9 United States and Germany by advocating awareness of German  
10 culture, traditions and contributions to the history, culture,  
11 economy, science and technology of the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Today, Pennsylvania and the Federal Republic of  
13 Germany enjoy a close relationship through our shared history  
14 and common interests; and

15 WHEREAS, Germany is one of this Commonwealth's most important  
16 trade partners, with \$1,872,211,915 in Pennsylvania exports  
17 going to Germany in 2021 and 43,200 workers employed by German-  
18 based companies as of 2021; and

19 WHEREAS, German Americans are rightfully proud of how their  
20 deep cultural, historical and familial ties have helped  
21 strengthen this robust transatlantic relationship; therefore be  
22 it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October  
24 6, 2024, as "German American Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the German  
27 heritage of Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives celebrate the  
29 important relationship between this Commonwealth and the Federal  
30 Republic of Germany.