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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 212 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY GUZMAN, CERRATO, M. JONES, KINSEY, SAPPEY, HILL-  
EVANS, WEBSTER, DONAHUE, BULLOCK, McNEILL, FREEMAN, MAYES,  
SANCHEZ, T. DAVIS, HOHENSTEIN, PROBST, MADDEN, VENKAT,  
KAZEEM, BURGOS, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, SAMUELSON, GALLAGHER,  
FLEMING, HADDOCK, MALAGARI, MENTZER, DELLOSO, GIRAL,  
HANBIDGE, NEILSON, GREEN, BRENNAN, CIRESI, ZIMMERMAN, OTTEN,  
KRAJEWSKI, SHUSTERMAN, KINKEAD, BOROWSKI, VITALI, KENYATTA,  
HARKINS, BOYD, O'MARA, PIELLI, D. MILLER, GUENST, SCHWEYER,  
KRUEGER, PASHINSKI AND GERGELY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 15 through October 15, 2023, as "Hispanic  
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Month" is recognized every year  
4 in the United States in celebration and honor of the cultures  
5 and contributions of Americans who trace their roots back to  
6 Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America and Spanish-  
7 speaking Caribbean nations; and

8 WHEREAS, This month-long celebration pays tribute to the  
9 generations of Hispanic and Latino Americans who have had a  
10 positive and enriching influence on our nation and society; and

11 WHEREAS, Esteemed trailblazers to be celebrated include  
12 Dolores Huerta; Cesar Chavez; Sylvia Rivera; Roberto Clemente,  
13 the first Latin American and Caribbean American to win a World  
14 Series as a starting player; Ellen Ochoa, the first Hispanic-

1 American woman to go to space and serve as director of the  
2 Johnson Space Center; and Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic  
3 American to serve as a member of the United States Supreme  
4 Court; and

5 WHEREAS, The celebration originated as "Hispanic Heritage  
6 Week" from a bill introduced by California Congressman George E.  
7 Brown to recognize the role Hispanic communities played  
8 throughout American history; and

9 WHEREAS, The effort by Congressman Brown eventually led to  
10 Congress passing a law that allowed President Lyndon B. Johnson  
11 to issue the first "Hispanic Heritage Week" in September 1968;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Week" was expanded to a month-  
14 long celebration through the work of California Congressman  
15 Esteban E. Torres and United States Senator Paul Simon from  
16 Illinois who proposed the idea; and

17 WHEREAS, Congressman Torres and Senator Simon successfully  
18 passed a bill through Congress that was signed by President  
19 Ronald Reagan in 1988, allowing President George H.W. Bush to  
20 declare the first "Hispanic Heritage Month" from September 15 to  
21 October 15, 1989; and

22 WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Month" coincides with the  
23 anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador,  
24 Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on September 15; the  
25 anniversary of independence for Mexico on September 16; the  
26 anniversary of independence for Chile on September 18; and Día  
27 de la Raza, which is celebrated on October 12; and

28 WHEREAS, The United States Census Bureau estimated in 2021  
29 that the United States has a Hispanic population of 62.6 million  
30 making it the largest ethnic minority in the country with

1 Latinos accounting for more than half of all the United States'  
2 population growth since 2010; and

3 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans have faithfully served in the  
4 United States military throughout the nation's history,  
5 currently making up more than 17% of the active-duty population;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, More than 1 million Hispanics call Pennsylvania  
8 home, serving as an integral part of the cultural diversity of  
9 this Commonwealth by sharing their music, food, art, dance and  
10 other aspects of their rich traditions and serving a significant  
11 role within the Pennsylvania economy as business owners, public  
12 servants and essential workers; and

13 WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Month" has long been an important  
14 opportunity to celebrate and honor communities of Hispanic  
15 origin, recognizing that these communities bring significant  
16 value to this Commonwealth; and

17 WHEREAS, These communities serve as fine examples of how all  
18 citizens might live out the values of this Commonwealth through  
19 service, faith and a desire to achieve the American dream;  
20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
22 September 15 through October 15, 2023, as "Hispanic Heritage  
23 Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on every  
25 Pennsylvanian to honor the culture and history represented  
26 within Hispanic communities through robust learning, service and  
27 celebration, recognizing the positive impact these communities  
28 have on the Commonwealth and the nation.