

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 13, 2017, as "National History Day in
2 Pennsylvania."

3 WHEREAS, "National History Day in Pennsylvania" is the
4 Commonwealth's component of a national, year-long, classroom-
5 based program that engages students in hands-on historical
6 research and exploration; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 12,000 students participate on an
8 annual basis with the support of their school peers, teachers
9 and parents; and

10 WHEREAS, After competing successfully at the local and
11 regional contests, more than 1,100 students, teachers, parents
12 and family members will gather on this date for the 2017
13 "National History Day in Pennsylvania" State contest; and

14 WHEREAS, The winners of the State contest will comprise the
15 Pennsylvania delegation to the national contest at the
16 University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, from June 11
17 through June 15, 2017; and

1 WHEREAS, Approximately 120 community volunteers donate their
2 time as judges and staff for the State contest, and there are
3 more than 650 volunteers for the regional contests on an annual
4 basis; and

5 WHEREAS, The Army Heritage Center Foundation, which is
6 recognized as an educational improvement organization by the
7 Department of Education, provides Statewide oversight and
8 management of the Commonwealth's program and contest; and

9 WHEREAS, "National History Day in Pennsylvania" is recognized
10 as an innovative educational program by the Pennsylvania
11 Department of Education; and

12 WHEREAS, "National History Day in Pennsylvania" is
13 represented throughout this Commonwealth by 12 regional
14 affiliates that coordinate activities in 57 counties across this
15 Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, The regional affiliates are Edinboro University of
17 Pennsylvania, Misericordia University, Westminster College,
18 Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Central Intermediate Unit
19 #10, Jim Thorpe High School, the Heinz History Center, Messiah
20 College, the Chester County Historical Society, the Bucks County
21 Historical Society, the East Petersburg Lions Club and the
22 National Archives Mid-Atlantic Region; and

23 WHEREAS, The "National History Day in Pennsylvania" program
24 is a 2011 recipient of the National Humanities Medal and is
25 endorsed by the American Association for State and Local
26 History, the American Historical Association, the Federation of
27 State Humanities Councils, the National Association of Secondary
28 School Principals, the National Center for History in the
29 Schools, the National Council for History Education, the
30 National Council for the Social Studies, the Organization of

1 American Historians and the Society of American Archivists; and
2 WHEREAS, A 2010 study by Rockman, et al, shows that National
3 History Day students outperform their peers on standardized
4 achievement tests, are better writers, develop better critical
5 thinking skills and learn 21st century skills; and

6 WHEREAS, Students who participate in "National History Day in
7 Pennsylvania" are better prepared for college and careers;
8 therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 13,
10 2017, as "National History Day in Pennsylvania" and encourage
11 students, teachers and other residents of this Commonwealth to
12 participate in the "National History Day in Pennsylvania"
13 program.