

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2024 as "Italian-American Heritage
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Italians were among the first explorers to discover
4 the American continents and map their geography; and

5 WHEREAS, The term "America" is derived from the name of
6 Italian explorer and navigator Amerigo Vespucci; and

7 WHEREAS, Italian-Americans have defended the liberty and
8 integrity of the United States since the Revolutionary War; and

9 WHEREAS, The phrase in the Declaration of Independence, "all
10 men are created equal," was paraphrased from the writings of
11 Italian immigrant and American patriot Filippo Mazzei; and

12 WHEREAS, An estimated 5.5 million Italians immigrated to the
13 United States between 1820 and 2004; and

14 WHEREAS, Today there are approximately 18 million Americans
15 of Italian descent in the United States, making them the fourth-
16 largest ethnic group in this country; and

17 WHEREAS, The Italian-American community has strong roots in

1 Pennsylvania; and

2 WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia remains the second-largest
3 Italian-American community in this country; and

4 WHEREAS, The recent 2020 census, along with the 2021 American
5 Community Survey, reported that approximately 1.7 million
6 Pennsylvanians have Italian ancestry; and

7 WHEREAS, Italian-Americans have made and continue to make
8 important contributions to this Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, On June 2 of each year, Italian-Americans, Italians
10 and individuals of Italian descent around the world celebrate
11 Festa della Repubblica, or Republic Day, Italy's National Day
12 that commemorates the 1946 referendum ending the monarchy in
13 Italy and establishing a republic; and

14 WHEREAS, The month of June also marks the anniversaries of
15 the founding of two notable Italian-American organizations, the
16 Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America on June 22 and the
17 Italian American Heritage Foundation on June 29; and

18 WHEREAS, These observances have previously led the Congress
19 of the United States and state and local governments to
20 commemorate Italian-American heritage by declaring "National
21 Italian-American Heritage Week," "National Italian-American
22 Day," "Italian Heritage Day," "Italian-American Day" and other
23 days in June; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
25 month of June 2024 as "Italian-American Heritage Month" in
26 Pennsylvania; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
28 significant contributions that Italian-Americans have made to
29 this Commonwealth and the United States.