

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 280 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, FRANKEL, BAKER, BARRAR, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, CUTLER, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, FARINA, FREEMAN, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HARHART, HARKINS, J. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, KAUFER, KAVULICH, KILLION, KIM, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSICO, MATZIE, McCARTER, McNEILL, MILLARD, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, C. PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PETRI, PICKETT, RAPP, READSHAW, ROZZI, SABATINA, SCHREIBER, SCHWEYER, SIMS, TALLMAN, THOMAS, VEREB, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD AND DeLUCA, APRIL 21, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 21, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2015 as "Jewish American Heritage  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On April 20, 2006, after congressional resolutions  
4 introduced by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida  
5 and Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania urged the President to  
6 recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions  
7 to American culture, President George W. Bush designated May as  
8 "Jewish American History Month"; and

9 WHEREAS, President George Washington, who knew the importance  
10 of Jewish contributions to the War for Independence, wrote in a  
11 letter dated August 17, 1790, "May the children of the stock of  
12 Abraham who dwell in the land continue to merit and enjoy the  
13 goodwill of the other inhabitants. While everyone shall sit

1 safely under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none  
2 to make him afraid."; and

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania, Delaware, South Carolina and Georgia  
4 were first to eliminate barriers to voting and holding office  
5 for Jewish citizens, steps which were further upheld in the Bill  
6 of Rights of 1791; and

7 WHEREAS, There have been successive waves of Jewish  
8 emigration to the United States, including people from Germany  
9 during the 19th century, from Eastern Europe from 1880 through  
10 1914 fleeing pogroms, from Europe after World War II who  
11 survived the Holocaust, and, most recently, from the Soviet  
12 Union after 1970, all bringing individuals with talent, skills  
13 and drive who have enriched American culture; and

14 WHEREAS, The Library of Congress, National Archives and  
15 Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities,  
16 National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, United States  
17 Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Pennsylvania Historical and  
18 Museum Commission have joined in the 2015 efforts to pay tribute  
19 to the generations of Jewish Americans who have helped form the  
20 fabric of American history, culture and society, and resources  
21 for celebration have been provided at  
22 [www.jewishheritagemonth.gov](http://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov); therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
24 month of May 2015 as "Jewish American Heritage Month" in  
25 Pennsylvania and encourage participation in national, State and  
26 local observances celebrating the contributions of Jewish  
27 Americans to life in the United States.