
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 513 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHWEYER, KINSEY, DRISCOLL, VEREB, YOUNGBLOOD,
KIM, THOMAS, COHEN, HENNESSEY, MURT, BISHOP, BARRAR, PICKETT,
READSHAW, SCHLOSSBERG, HAHN, PHILLIPS-HILL, KIRKLAND,
GODSHALL, CALTAGIRONE, PEIFER, MACKENZIE, NEILSON, ROZZI,
ACOSTA, WATSON, DONATUCCI, V. BROWN, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD,
MCNEILL, WHEELAND, KNOWLES, MENTZER, FEE, MAHONEY, GROVE,
ROSS, MAJOR, GILLEN, ZIMMERMAN, MARSICO, FARINA, GINGRICH,
PAYNE, D. COSTA, WARD AND BENNINGHOFF, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 4 through 10, 2015, as
2 "Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch) Heritage Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, There are communities of Pennsylvania Dutch
4 (Deutsch) living in many parts of the United States and Canada
5 today, but the largest settlement is in Pennsylvania,
6 concentrated in the eastern part of this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch), also called
8 Pennsylvania Germans or Pennsylvania Deutsch, are descendants of
9 early German immigrants to Pennsylvania; and

10 WHEREAS, The word "Dutch" does not refer to people from
11 Holland, but is an English adaptation of Deutsch, the German
12 word for "German"; and

13 WHEREAS, Both the "Dutch" and "Deutsch" spellings are
14 commonly used and refer to the same people and culture; and

1 WHEREAS, The first major emigration of Germans to America
2 resulted in the founding of the Borough of Germantown in
3 northwest Philadelphia County on October 6, 1683; and

4 WHEREAS, The German population arrived in droves, mostly
5 before 1800, to escape religious persecution in Europe but also
6 to seek a better life; and

7 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch) maintained numerous
8 religious affiliations, with the greatest number being Lutheran
9 or Reformed, as well as many Anabaptists; and

10 WHEREAS, The Anabaptist religion promoted a simple lifestyle
11 and their adherents were known as Plain People or Plain Dutch
12 (Deutsch), as opposed to the Fancy Dutch (Deutsch) who tended to
13 assimilate more easily into the American mainstream; and

14 WHEREAS, Over time the various dialects spoken by these
15 immigrants fused into a unique dialect known as Pennsylvania
16 German or Pennsylvania "Dutch" (Deutsch); and

17 WHEREAS, At one time over one-third of Pennsylvania's
18 population spoke this language, which also had an impact on the
19 local dialect of English; and

20 WHEREAS, Substantial Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch) literature,
21 art and architecture exist and many written records were adorned
22 with illuminated writing; and

23 WHEREAS, Articles such as pottery, furniture, needlework and
24 barns made use of decorative motifs, often of a highly artistic
25 nature; and

26 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Germans have greatly contributed to the
27 culture of this Commonwealth, and the Pennsylvania German
28 Society, organized in 1891, has published abundant material
29 relative to the history and folklore of the Pennsylvania Dutch
30 (Deutsch); therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
2 week of October 4 through 10, 2015, as "Pennsylvania Dutch
3 (Deutsch) Heritage Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage
5 participation in State and local observances celebrating the
6 contributions and history of the Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch) to
7 this Commonwealth.