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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 268 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY R. MACKENZIE, GAYDOS, M. JONES, KAUFFMAN, KRUPA,  
LEADBETER AND ROWE, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating November 7, 2023, as "Victims of Communism Memorial  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The year 2023 marks 32 years since the fall of the  
4 Soviet Union; and

5 WHEREAS, Based on the philosophy of Karl Marx, communism has  
6 proven incompatible with the ideals of liberty, prosperity and  
7 dignity of human life and has given rise to such infamous  
8 totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Ho Chi  
9 Minh, Pol Pot, Nicolae Ceaușescu, the Castro brothers and the  
10 Kim dynasty; and

11 WHEREAS, One-fifth of the world's population still live under  
12 communist tyranny in countries like China, Venezuela and Cuba  
13 where atrocities like genocide, food shortages, forced labor and  
14 internment occur; and

15 WHEREAS, The Victims of Communism Museum opened on June 13,  
16 2022, in Washington, DC, to educate visitors about the history  
17 and horrors of communism; and

18 WHEREAS, Communist regimes worldwide have killed more than

1 100 million people and subjected countless others to the worst  
2 and widest-spread human rights abuses known to history, with  
3 victims representing many different ethnicities, creeds and  
4 backgrounds; and

5 WHEREAS, Through false promises of equality and liberation,  
6 communist regimes have, as a matter of government policy, robbed  
7 residents of the rights of freedom of religion, freedom of  
8 speech and freedom of association, through coercion, brutality  
9 and fear; and

10 WHEREAS, Many victims of communism were persecuted as  
11 political prisoners for speaking out against these communist  
12 regimes and others were killed in genocidal, state-sponsored  
13 purges; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to violating basic human rights,  
15 communist regimes have suppressed freedom of conscience,  
16 cultural life and self-determination movements in more than 40  
17 nations; and

18 WHEREAS, The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in  
19 Washington, DC, a nonprofit organization authorized by a  
20 unanimous act of the Congress of the United States, educates  
21 people about the ideology, history and legacy of communism and  
22 honors those who have suffered and died under communist regimes;  
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
25 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania designate November 7, 2023, as  
26 "Victims of Communism Memorial Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of  
29 Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania transmit a  
30 copy of this resolution to the Victims of Communism Memorial

1 Foundation so that members of the organization may be apprised  
2 of the Commonwealth's action on this matter; and be it further  
3       RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of  
4 Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania post this  
5 designation on the publicly accessible Internet website of the  
6 House of Representatives.