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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 994 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, BURGOS, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, HOHENSTEIN, HENNESSEY, BURNS, HILL-EVANS,  
JONES, MILLARD, LONGIETTI, FREEMAN, McCLINTON, HOWARD, BROWN,  
WILLIAMS, KINSEY, GALLOWAY, McNEILL, HARRIS, A. DAVIS,  
NEILSON, GREEN, CALTAGIRONE, DRISCOLL, SAMUELSON, T. DAVIS,  
CIRESI, SANCHEZ, RYAN, MENTZER, MALAGARI, READSHAW, KORTZ AND  
DEASY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Observing September 15 through October 15, 2020, as "Hispanic  
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "National Hispanic Heritage Month" is celebrated in  
4 the United States to honor the history, culture and influence of  
5 past generations who came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and  
6 Central and South America; and

7 WHEREAS, Hispanics were the earliest European settlers to  
8 arrive at our great nation, founding settlements in Florida in  
9 the 1500s; and

10 WHEREAS, Mexicans established homesteads in the southwest in  
11 the 1600s; and

12 WHEREAS, Spanish was the first European language spoken in  
13 the New World; and

14 WHEREAS, Latinos are the largest ethnic minority in the  
15 United States today, with approximately 975,000 residing in

1 Pennsylvania; and

2 WHEREAS, The Hispanic population plays a key role in our  
3 country's socioeconomic, political and cultural development; and

4 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans share deep family values,  
5 recognize their obligations to individuals who are less  
6 fortunate and cherish freedom and what it means to be an  
7 American; and

8 WHEREAS, Latino-owned businesses are growing in number and  
9 importance to the American economy, contributing more than \$700  
10 billion in sales to the economy annually; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have  
12 shown their devotion to the nation through military service and  
13 have fought in every war since the nation's founding; and

14 WHEREAS, As of 2019, there are more than 200,000 Hispanic  
15 active duty service members serving in the armed forces of the  
16 United States; and

17 WHEREAS, "National Hispanic Heritage Month" originated in  
18 1968 when President Lyndon B. Johnson first proclaimed "National  
19 Hispanic Heritage Week"; and

20 WHEREAS, On September 15, 1988, President Ronald Reagan  
21 expanded the celebration into a month-long event linked to the  
22 independence anniversaries of several Latin American nations,  
23 including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico  
24 and Chile; and

25 WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Month" has become a vital  
26 opportunity to celebrate the rich cultural traditions and  
27 significant achievements of our Hispanic and Latino American  
28 communities across the Commonwealth; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe September  
30 15 through October 15, 2020, as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in

1 Pennsylvania; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
3 residents to celebrate the value of our diversity and the rich  
4 culture which has made our Commonwealth and our nation so  
5 extraordinary.