

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 163

Reps. Camilleri, Greig, Pohutsky, Koleszar, Garza, Coleman, Liberati, Tyrone Carter, Hammoud, Clemente and Manoogian offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare September 19, 2019, as Maltese
2 American Heritage Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Malta is a country in the Mediterranean Sea with a
4 rich and unique history dating back thousands of years. Because of
5 its strategic location, this archipelago of six islands has been a
6 naval asset for centuries, ruled by a succession of empires
7 including the Romans, French, and British. Malta also played a key
8 role in the Second World War. Coming under siege by the Axis, the
9 ensuing Allied offensive to regain the island was successful and
10 was instrumental in the following North African campaign. Malta



1 would eventually gain its independence from the United Kingdom on
2 September 21, 1964, and became a republic in 1974. Today, just
3 under 450,000 people live in Malta and it is one of the world's
4 smallest and most densely populated countries. Malta boasts three
5 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
6 (UNESCO) heritage sites, beautiful recreational opportunities, and
7 some of the oldest freestanding structures in the world; and

8 Whereas, The United States is fortunate to be home to tens of
9 thousands of Maltese Americans. Thousands of Michiganders are
10 Maltese immigrants or children of Maltese immigrants, and Metro
11 Detroit boasts the largest concentration of Maltese Americans in
12 the nation. Michiganders of Maltese descent, from the auto workers
13 that helped build Michigan into an industrial powerhouse, to the
14 entrepreneurs who opened restaurants that are still serving the
15 Metro Detroit community today, have used creativity, perseverance,
16 and relentless hard work to build a better future for their
17 families and the communities they call home. Both the state of
18 Michigan and the United States of America have been enriched by the
19 contributions of Maltese Americans in all facets of life, including
20 the arts, sciences, business, education, and philanthropy; and

21 Whereas, Maltese American residents are proudly served in
22 Michigan by the Maltese American Benevolent Society in Detroit and
23 the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn; and

24 Whereas, Michigan views cultural diversity as a strength and
25 welcomes the opportunity to honor our fellow Michiganders of
26 Maltese descent for their lasting and expanding imprint upon our
27 state; now, therefore, be it

28 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
29 this legislative body declare September 19, 2019, as Maltese

1 American Heritage Day in the state of Michigan. We encourage all
2 citizens to celebrate the individual and collective contributions
3 of Maltese Americans to this state and to this country.