

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 138

Senators Camilleri, Anthony, Bayer, Brinks, Cavanagh, Chang, Geiss, Irwin, Klinefelt, McCann, McMorrow, Moss, Polehanki, Singh and Wojno offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to recognize September 21, 2024, as Maltese  
2 American Heritage Day.

3           Whereas, Malta is a country in the central Mediterranean Sea  
4 with a rich and unique history dating back thousands of years; and

5           Whereas, Because of its strategic location, this archipelago  
6 of six islands has been a naval asset for centuries and was also  
7 instrumental in World War II. After coming under siege by Axis  
8 Powers, the ensuing Allied offensive to regain the island was  
9 successful and instrumental in the following North African  
10 campaign; and

11           Whereas, Malta would eventually gain its independence from the

1 United Kingdom on September 21, 1964 and became a republic in 1974;  
2 and

3       Whereas, September 21, 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of  
4 Malta's independence. Today, Malta is a unitary multiparty  
5 republic, with a parliament consisting of a unicameral House of  
6 Representatives; and

7       Whereas, Despite its small geographic size, Malta is the  
8 fourth most densely populated country in Europe and the eighth most  
9 in the world, with a population of nearly 450,000 spread across  
10 approximately 121 square miles; and

11       Whereas, Among other unique attributes, Malta boasts three  
12 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
13 (UNESCO) heritage sites, delicious cuisine, world-renowned diving,  
14 and other recreational opportunities on its stunning coastline,  
15 with some of the oldest freestanding structures in the world; and

16       Whereas, The United States is fortunate to be home to more  
17 than 38,000 Maltese Americans. The 2013 American Community Survey  
18 estimates that over 12,900 Michiganders are Maltese immigrants or  
19 children of Maltese immigrants, making the Metro Detroit area the  
20 largest concentration of Maltese Americans in the nation; and

21       Whereas, Michiganders of Maltese descent, from the auto  
22 workers that helped build Michigan into an industrial powerhouse,  
23 to the entrepreneurs who opened restaurants that are still serving  
24 the Metro Detroit community today, have employed the Maltese values  
25 of creativity, perseverance, and relentless hard work to build a  
26 better future for their families and the communities they call  
27 home; and

28       Whereas, Both the state of Michigan and the United States of  
29 America have been enriched by the contributions of Maltese

1 Americans in all facets of life, including the arts, sciences,  
2 business, education, and philanthropy; and

3       Whereas, Maltese American residents are proudly served in  
4 Michigan by the Maltese American Benevolent Society in Detroit and  
5 the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn; and

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

10       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
11 body recognize September 21, 2024, as Maltese American Heritage  
12 Day. We encourage all citizens to celebrate the individual and  
13 collective contributions of Maltese Americans to this state and to  
14 this country.