

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.162

Reps. Camilleri, Brabec, Breen, Cavanagh, Cherry, Clemente, Kuppa, Morse, Rabhi, Rogers, Sneller, Sowerby, Steenland and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare September 22, 2021, as Maltese
2 American Heritage Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Malta is a country in the central Mediterranean Sea
4 with a rich and unique history dating back thousands of years.
5 Because of its strategic location, this archipelago of six islands
6 has been a naval asset for centuries and was also instrumental in
7 World War II. After coming under siege by Axis powers, the ensuing
8 Allied offensive to regain the island was successful and was
9 instrumental in the following North African campaign. Malta would
10 eventually gain its independence from the United Kingdom on

1 September 21, 1964, and became a republic in 1974. Today, Malta is
2 a unitary multiparty republic, with a parliament consisting of a
3 unicameral House of Representatives; and

4 Whereas, Despite its small geographic size, Malta is the
5 fourth most densely populated country in Europe and the eighth most
6 in the world, with a population of nearly 450,000 spread across
7 approximately 121 square miles. Among other unique attributes,
8 Malta boasts three UNESCO heritage sites, delicious cuisine, world-
9 renowned diving and other recreational opportunities on its
10 stunning coastline, and some of the oldest freestanding structures
11 in the world; and

12 Whereas, The United States is fortunate to be home to more
13 than 42,000 Maltese Americans. According to a 2017 study, over
14 13,000 Michiganders are Maltese immigrants or children of Maltese
15 immigrants, making the Metro Detroit area the largest concentration
16 of Maltese Americans in the nation. Michiganders of Maltese
17 descent, from the auto workers that helped build Michigan into an
18 industrial powerhouse to the entrepreneurs who opened restaurants
19 that are still serving the Metro Detroit community today, have
20 employed the Maltese values of creativity, perseverance, and
21 relentless hard work to build a better future for their families
22 and the communities they call home. Both the state of Michigan and
23 the United States of America have been enriched by the
24 contributions of Maltese Americans in all facets of life, including
25 the arts, sciences, business, education, and philanthropy; and

26 Whereas, Maltese American residents are proudly served in
27 Michigan by the Maltese American Benevolent Society in Detroit and
28 the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn; and

29 Whereas, Michigan views cultural diversity as a strength and

1 welcomes the opportunity to honor our fellow Michiganders of
2 Maltese descent for their lasting and expanding imprint upon our
3 state; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
5 this legislative body declare September 22, 2021, as Maltese
6 American Heritage Day in the state of Michigan. We encourage all
7 citizens to celebrate the individual and collective contributions
8 of Maltese Americans to this state and to this country.