

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.162

Rep. Camilleri 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
11 September 21, 1964, and became a republic in 1974. Today, Malta is
12 a unitary multiparty republic, with a parliament consisting of a

1 unicameral House of Representatives; and

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

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

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

27 Whereas, Michigan views cultural diversity as a strength and
28 welcomes the opportunity to honor our fellow Michiganders of
29 Maltese descent for their lasting and expanding imprint upon our

1 state; now, therefore, be it

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