

Rep. Dianda offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 154.

A resolution to declare June 17-23, 2013, as Finnish-American Heritage Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, On Midsummer's Eve 1865, some 30 Finns and Sámi landed on the shores of the Portage Canal in Hancock, Michigan, and began work in the copper mines the next day; and

Whereas, Their immigration formed a unique Finnish American culture that reflects their roots and their continued ties to Finns worldwide and across Michigan; and

Whereas, Finnish American cuisine, from *mojakka*, a traditional stew, to *leipäjuusto* or "squeaky cheese," and sweet baked goods are still an important part of their rich culture; and

Whereas, The Finnish love for saunas has gone unchanged and saunas remain the place to go during the blistering cold winters of the Upper Peninsula; and

Whereas, Their pride in that ancestry is evident in a variety of ways - from bilingual street signs to Finnish flags on cars and light poles to the sounds of the Finnish language being spoken each day in local restaurants and coffee shops; and

Whereas, Finns' strong work ethic in the mines made Michigan the world's largest provider of copper for decades; and

Whereas, The 1913 Strike, during which many Finns fought for their rights as workers, was a momentous event in United States and Michigan labor history; and

Whereas, Michigan's Copper Country is recognized as the focal point of Finnish immigration to America; and

Whereas, Michigan is home to the nation's highest density of Finnish-Americans and more than 30 percent of the Copper Country's residents can claim Finnish ancestry; and

Whereas, Michigan's Copper Country remains a pivotal center of Finnish-American culture and is host to the most significant Finnish ethnic enclave outside of Finland; and

Whereas, Suomi College, now Finlandia University, in Hancock, Michigan, is the only institution of higher education founded by Finns in the United States; and

Whereas, Michigan boasts the *Finnish American Historical Archives* and it is the largest archival collection of Finnish American materials in the world; and

Whereas, Hancock, Michigan, has been honored this year by hosting FinnFest USA 2013, an international event that draws visitors from around the world to celebrate Finnish culture, for the third time; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare June 17-23, 2013, as Finnish-American Heritage Week in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the City of Hancock, the County of Houghton, Finlandia University and the FinnFest USA 2013 Organizing Committee.