

Rep. Camilleri offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 152.

A resolution to declare September 21, 2017, as Maltese American Heritage Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Malta is an archipelago of six islands in the Mediterranean Sea with a rich history dating back thousands of years. Because of their strategic location, the islands have served as a military asset for centuries, at times coming under the control of the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, French, and British. Malta gained its independence from the United Kingdom on September 21, 1964. With a population of under 450,000 people, Malta is now one of the world's smallest and most densely populated countries. It is a popular tourist destination, boasting beautiful recreational opportunities, three UNESCO Heritage Sites, and some of the oldest freestanding structures in the world; and

Whereas, The United States is fortunate to be home to more than 38,000 Maltese Americans. The 2013 American Community Survey estimates that over 12,900 Michiganders are Maltese immigrants or children of Maltese immigrants, making the metro-Detroit area the largest concentration of Maltese Americans in the nation. Citizens of Maltese descent, in each generation, from the factory workers who helped shape Michigan's automobile industry to the entrepreneurs who opened restaurants that are still serving the metro-Detroit community today, have used ingenuity, dedication, and relentless hard work to find economic opportunities and provide better lives for their families. Maltese Americans have enhanced our culture, quality of life, and economic vitality through leadership, commitments to knowledge and advancement, and dedication to their communities. The state of Michigan and the United States of America have been enriched by the contributions of Maltese Americans in all facets of life, including the arts, sciences, business, education, and philanthropy; and

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

Whereas, Michigan takes pride in its cultural diversity and welcomes the opportunity to honor our Maltese American residents for their lasting and expanding imprint upon our state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare September 21, 2017, as Maltese American Heritage Day in the state of Michigan. We encourage all citizens to celebrate the individual and collective contributions of Maltese Americans to this state and to this country.