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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 632 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY HELM, BOBACK, CALTAGIRONE, CHARLTON, D. COSTA,  
DIGIROLAMO, DUSH, HENNESSEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, JAMES, LONGIETTI,  
MILLARD, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROTHMAN, RYAN, SAMUELSON,  
SCHWEYER, SONNEY, TOEPEL AND WARD, DECEMBER 21, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
DECEMBER 21, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 15, 2018, as "Irena Sendler Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania in recognition of her bravery and humanitarian  
3 efforts.

4 WHEREAS, Irena Sendler was a Catholic woman living in Warsaw,  
5 Poland, during World War II; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Sendler helped save more than 2,500 Jewish  
7 children from the Nazi death camps as the head of the children's  
8 unit of Zegota, a Polish underground group established to assist  
9 Jewish people in German-occupied Poland; and

10 WHEREAS, The children were spirited out of Warsaw to other  
11 families, who hid them until the war's end; and

12 WHEREAS, Ms. Sendler and her colleagues would write each  
13 child's name on a piece of tissue paper, place the paper in a  
14 jar and bury it in a vacant lot, hoping to retrieve it after the  
15 war and eventually reunite the children with their parents; and

16 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, most of the children's parents were  
17 murdered at the Treblinka death camp; and

1       WHEREAS, The penalty for anyone found assisting the Jewish  
2 people in escaping or otherwise hiding from the Nazis was  
3 torture and death; and

4       WHEREAS, Ms. Sendler and her helpers bravely went about their  
5 task of saving as many children as possible because they felt  
6 that was their higher calling; and

7       WHEREAS, After the war, even though she had saved so many  
8 lives, Ms. Sendler was always haunted by the lives she was  
9 unable to save; and

10       WHEREAS, Ms. Sendler was arrested on October 20, 1943, and  
11 put in the Pawiak prison where she was tortured, including  
12 having her legs and feet fractured; and

13       WHEREAS, Although sentenced to death, Ms. Sendler managed to  
14 escape the prison and lived in hiding for the remainder of the  
15 war; and

16       WHEREAS, Ms. Sendler has received numerous awards and  
17 recognition; and

18       WHEREAS, Ms. Sendler was born on February 15, 1910, and died  
19 on May 12, 2008; therefore be it

20       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
21 February 15, 2018, as "Irena Sendler Day" in Pennsylvania in  
22 recognition of her bravery and humanitarian efforts.