

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 313

Reps. Camilleri, Garza, Haadsma and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare September 21, 2020, as Maltese  
2 American Heritage Day in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, Malta is a country in the Mediterranean Sea with a  
4 rich and unique history dating back thousands of years. Because of  
5 its strategic location, this archipelago of six islands has been a  
6 naval asset for centuries, ruled by a succession of empires  
7 including the Romans, French, and British. Malta also played a key  
8 role in the Second World War. Coming under siege by the Axis, the  
9 ensuing Allied offensive to regain the island was successful and  
10 was instrumental in the following North African campaign. Malta  
11 would eventually gain its independence from the United Kingdom on



September 21, 1964, and became a republic in 1974. Today, just under 450,000 people live in Malta and it is one of the world's smallest and most densely populated countries. Malta boasts three UNESCO heritage sites, beautiful recreational opportunities, and some of the oldest freestanding structures in the world; and

Whereas, The United States is fortunate to be home to more than 39,000 Maltese Americans. The 2018 American Community Survey estimates that over 12,600 Michiganders are Maltese immigrants or children of Maltese immigrants, making the Metro Detroit area the largest concentration of Maltese Americans in the nation.

Michiganders of Maltese descent, from the auto workers that helped build Michigan into an industrial powerhouse, to the entrepreneurs who opened restaurants that are still serving the Metro Detroit community today, have used creativity, perseverance, and relentless hard work to build a better future for their families and the communities they call home. Both 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 views cultural diversity as a strength and welcomes the opportunity to honor our fellow Michiganders of Maltese descent 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, 2020, as Maltese American Heritage Day in the state of Michigan. We encourage all

- 1 citizens to celebrate the individual and collective contributions
- 2 of Maltese Americans to this state and to this country.