

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 138

Senator Camilleri offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize September 21, 2024, as Maltese
2 American Heritage Day.

3 Whereas, Malta is a country in the central Mediterranean Sea
4 with a rich and unique history dating back thousands of years; and

5 Whereas, Because of its strategic location, this archipelago
6 of six islands has been a naval asset for centuries and was also
7 instrumental in World War II. After coming under siege by Axis
8 Powers, the ensuing Allied offensive to regain the island was
9 successful and instrumental in the following North African
10 campaign; and

11 Whereas, Malta would eventually gain its independence from the
12 United Kingdom on September 21, 1964 and became a republic in 1974;
13 and

1 Whereas, September 21, 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of
2 Malta's independence. Today, Malta is a unitary multiparty
3 republic, with a parliament consisting of a unicameral House of
4 Representatives; and

5 Whereas, Despite its small geographic size, Malta is the
6 fourth most densely populated country in Europe and the eighth most
7 in the world, with a population of nearly 450,000 spread across
8 approximately 121 square miles; and

9 Whereas, Among other unique attributes, Malta boasts three
10 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
11 (UNESCO) heritage sites, delicious cuisine, world-renowned diving,
12 and other recreational opportunities on its stunning coastline,
13 with some of the oldest freestanding structures in the world; and

14 Whereas, The United States is fortunate to be home to more
15 than 38,000 Maltese Americans. The 2013 American Community Survey
16 estimates that over 12,900 Michiganders are Maltese immigrants or
17 children of Maltese immigrants, making the Metro Detroit area the
18 largest concentration of Maltese Americans in the nation; and

19 Whereas, Michiganders of Maltese descent, from the auto
20 workers that helped build Michigan into an industrial powerhouse,
21 to the entrepreneurs who opened restaurants that are still serving
22 the Metro Detroit community today, have employed the Maltese values
23 of creativity, perseverance, and relentless hard work to build a
24 better future for their families and the communities they call
25 home; and

26 Whereas, Both the state of Michigan and the United States of
27 America have been enriched by the contributions of Maltese
28 Americans in all facets of life, including the arts, sciences,
29 business, education, and philanthropy; and

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

4 Whereas, Michigan views cultural diversity as a strength and
5 welcomes the opportunity to honor our fellow Michiganders of
6 Maltese descent for their lasting and expanding imprint upon our
7 state; now, therefore, be it

8 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
9 body recognize September 21, 2024, as Maltese American Heritage
10 Day. We encourage all citizens to celebrate the individual and
11 collective contributions of Maltese Americans to this state and to
12 this country.