

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 56

Reps. McFall, Harris, Robinson, MacDonell, Martus, Wilson, Snyder, Liberati, Rheingans, Breen, Mentzer, Koleszar, Skaggs, Wooden, Morgan, Farhat, Arbit and Conlin offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 2025 as Scottish-American
2 Heritage Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, On April 6, 1320, Scottish King Robert I signed the
4 Declaration of Arbroath. This was a letter written to Pope John
5 XXII, responding to his excommunication from the church because the
6 King refused to stop fighting for Scottish Independence; and

7 Whereas, Scots first came to North America during the colonial
8 era. Many came over due to the British 1717 Transportation Act
9 which established a convict bond service punishment and
10 transportation to North America. A few decades later, following
11 Scottish defeat at the hands of the English in the 1746 Battle of

1 Culloden, Scottish immigration continued to grow in North America;
2 and

3 Whereas, There are now over 200,000 Scottish-Americans living
4 in Michigan and April is a time to reflect and celebrate Scottish
5 roots; and

6 Whereas, Now Scots and Scottish Americans celebrate their
7 independence through Tartan Day and Tartan Month. A tartan is a
8 patterned cloth consisting of crossed, horizontal, and vertical
9 bands in multiple colors, originally made from woven wool. Tartan
10 patterns are typically associated with traditional Scottish kilts.
11 Sometimes tartan is confused with plaid, but tartan is specifically
12 woven both horizontally and vertically into the fabric. Tartan has
13 a long history in Scotland; and

14 Whereas, National Tartan Day was first proposed in Canada in
15 1986 before the celebration of culture and history came to the
16 United States in 1998; and

17 Whereas, On Tartan Day, April 6, 2009, the formation of the
18 Scottish American Society of Michigan was announced, a new and
19 different Scottish group whose goal is preserving and furthering
20 Scottish heritage throughout Michigan, as well as to help
21 charitable organizations and individuals in need; and

22 Whereas, In Michigan, we have the oldest Scottish society in
23 the country, St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, founded in 1849. St.
24 Andrews celebrates Scottish heritage in their annual Highland
25 Games, the oldest continuous games in North America, celebrating
26 174 years of competition and tradition this year; now, therefore,
27 be it.

28 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
29 this legislative body declare April 2025 as Scottish-American

1 Heritage Month in the state of Michigan.