

P.L. 2019, Joint Resolution No. 31, *approved January 21, 2020*
Assembly Joint Resolution No. 103

- 1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating January as “NUT
2 Carcinoma Awareness Month” in New Jersey.
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- 4 **WHEREAS**, NUT carcinoma, formerly known as NUT midline
5 carcinoma, is a rare, genetically defined, aggressive squamous cell
6 epithelial cancer; and
7 **WHEREAS**, NUT carcinoma is characterized by a chromosomal
8 rearrangement in the nuclear protein of the testis gene (a DNA-
9 binding protein encoded by the SRY gene that is responsible for the
10 initiation of male sex determination in humans); and
11 **WHEREAS**, This form of cancer typically affects boys, although the
12 first documented case of the disease was a 12 year old girl, and
13 sometimes presents in adults; and
14 **WHEREAS**, NUT carcinoma occurs in the midline of the body,
15 including the head, neck, and thoracic cavity, and may involve the
16 nostrils, epiglottis, sinuses, and bladder; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Symptoms of NUT carcinoma are similar to other cancers,
18 and dependent on the stage of the cancer. While generalized
19 symptoms such as weight loss and fatigue may occur, tumors in the
20 head, neck, and the thoracic cavity region are more specific to this
21 form of cancer; and
22 **WHEREAS**, NUT carcinoma is very resistant to standard chemotherapy
23 treatments, and once diagnosed with this form of cancer, the
24 average survival rate is nine months; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Benjamin Landel was born to Rob and Tricia Landel on
26 November 12, 1999 in Ridgewood New Jersey ; and
27 **WHEREAS**, A Ramapo High School soccer and track star, Ben was
28 diagnosed with NUT carcinoma at the age of 17; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Ben was a determined, courageous, confident, and
30 inspiring teenager who overcame many obstacles while battling
31 cancer; and
32 **WHEREAS**, In response to his diagnosis, his coach and teammates
33 created a social media fundraising campaign, the “Ben Landel
34 Cross Bar Challenge”; and
35 **WHEREAS**, The campaign went viral and attracted high-profile
36 supporters such as Carli Lloyd, a member of the United States
37 Women’s Soccer Team. A GoFundMe campaign tied to the
38 challenge raised nearly \$43,000 for Ben’s medical bills; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Although Ben spent the last nine months of his life
40 enduring multiple surgeries and chemotherapy, when his parents
41 asked him what he wanted for Christmas, he asked that a portion of

1 the money raised for his treatment be donated to pediatric cancer
2 research; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Although NUT carcinoma is an aggressive and usually
4 fatal disease, new surgical treatments and radiotherapy regimens are
5 improving survival rates; now, therefore,

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7 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
8 *State of New Jersey:*

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10 1. The month of January shall be permanently designated as
11 “NUT Carcinoma Awareness Month” in the State of New Jersey in
12 order to raise public awareness about this aggressive form of cancer
13 and the new treatment regimens that are improving survival rates,
14 and to honor the inspiring life of Benjamin Landel whose generosity
15 led him to help others who were undergoing their own battles with
16 cancer.

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18 2. The Governor is respectively requested to annually issue a
19 proclamation recognizing January as “NUT Carcinoma Awareness
20 Month” in New Jersey, and calling upon public officials and the
21 citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate
22 activities and programs.

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24 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
25 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
26 Secretary of the Senate to the Matthew Larson Foundation for
27 Pediatric Brain Cancer.

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29 4. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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32 STATEMENT

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34 This joint resolution permanently designates the month of
35 January as “NUT Carcinoma Awareness Month” in the State of
36 New Jersey in order to raise public awareness about this aggressive
37 form of cancer and the new treatment regimens that are improving
38 survival rates, and to honor the inspiring life of Benjamin Landel
39 whose generosity led him to help others who were undergoing their
40 own battles with cancer.

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46 Permanently designates January as “NUT Carcinoma Awareness
Month” in New Jersey.