

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 75

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 10, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman RYAN E. PETERS

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman R. BRUCE LAND

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

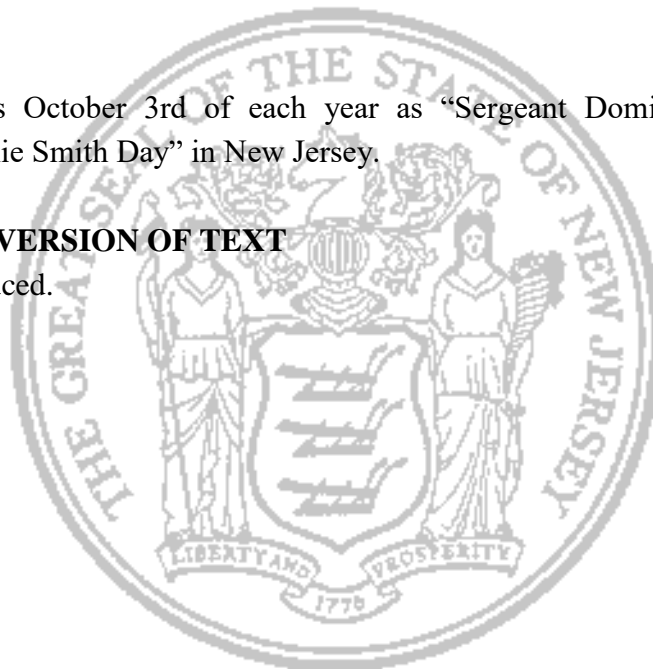
Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblymen Harold J. Wirths, Space, Assemblywoman Gove, Assemblymen Howarth, Mazzeo, Armato, Karabinchak, Assemblywoman Murphy and Assemblyman A.M.Bucco

SYNOPSIS

Designates October 3rd of each year as “Sergeant Dominick Pilla and Corporal Jamie Smith Day” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/28/2018)

SJR75 SINGLETON

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1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating October 3rd of each year as
2 “Sergeant Dominick Pilla and Corporal Jamie Smith Day” in the
3 State of New Jersey.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Sergeant Dominick Pilla and Corporal Jamie Smith were
6 New Jersey natives; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Sergeant Pilla was from Vineland in Cumberland County
8 and Corporal Smith was from Long Valley in Morris County; and

9 **WHEREAS**, They both were United States Army Rangers, served in
10 Mogadishu, Somalia, and were 21 years old when they were killed
11 on October 3, 1993 while serving our country; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Sergeant Pilla was a member of an Army Ranger team
13 deployed to Mogadishu, Somalia, and was on an assignment to
14 recover and extract fellow Army Rangers from a downed Black
15 Hawk helicopter when his convoy was ambushed; and

16 **WHEREAS**, During the ambush Sergeant Pilla noticed a Somalian
17 taking aim at a member of his team and he in turn was noticed, and
18 both men shot and killed each other; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Sergeant Pilla was the first of 18 soldiers to be killed in the
20 Battle of Mogadishu; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Corporal Smith was a member of a force deployed to
22 Mogadishu, Somalia to contain warlords; and

23 **WHEREAS**, While Corporal Smith and other members from his team
24 launched a raid to capture the warlord Mohammed Addid, a Black
25 Hawk helicopter was hit by a rocket propelled grenade and went
26 down; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Corporal Smith was one of the first Army Rangers to
28 arrive at the downed helicopter, and after he and three members of
29 his team made their way to the crash site to establish a defense
30 perimeter, a bullet struck his thigh and severed his femoral artery;
31 and

32 **WHEREAS**, Attempts to stop the bleeding were unsuccessful and
33 Corporal Smith died; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Sergeant Pilla and Corporal Smith served courageously
35 and dutifully as United States Army Rangers; and

36 **WHEREAS**, Sergeant Pilla was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star
37 with valor device and the Purple Heart, and Corporal Smith was
38 posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with valor device, an Oak
39 Leaf Cluster, and a Purple Heart; now, therefore,

40
41 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
42 *State of New Jersey:*

- 43
44 1. a. October 3rd of each year is designated as “Sergeant
45 Dominick Pilla and Corporal Jamie Smith Day” in New Jersey.
46 b. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a
47 proclamation each year calling upon public officials and citizens of
48 the State to observe the day with appropriate events.

SJR75 SINGLETON

1 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This Joint Resolution designates October 3rd of each year as
7 “Sergeant Dominick Pilla and Corporal Jamie Smith Day” in the
8 State of New Jersey.

9 Sergeant Pilla and Corporal Smith were United States Army
10 Rangers who served in Mogadishu, Somalia. They were killed on
11 October 3, 1993, when Sergeant Pilla’s convoy was ambushed and
12 when Corporal Smith was shot in the leg and his femoral artery
13 severed. The fatal firefight of the mission and the death of both
14 men were recreated in the film “Black Hawk Down”.

15 Sergeant Pilla was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with
16 valor device and the Purple Heart. Corporal Smith was
17 posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with valor device, an Oak
18 Leaf Cluster, and a Purple Heart.