

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1
(CORRECTED COPY)

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating March 9 of each year as “COVID-19 Heroes Day” in New Jersey.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that has caused a global pandemic, leading to an unprecedented and overwhelming public health crisis throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has the second highest incidence of COVID-19 in the United States, leading to the State’s healthcare system and economy becoming overwhelmed; and

WHEREAS, In response to the devastating effects COVID-19 has had throughout New Jersey, the Governor issued a declaration of a State of Emergency on March 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to combat COVID-19 and to provide necessary services during the State of Emergency, essential workers have been called upon to keep the State’s citizens safe and healthy; and

WHEREAS, Essential workers provide services which involve interactions with the public and are essential to the public's health, safety, and welfare during a State of Emergency, and includes healthcare workers, first responders, pharmacy workers, postal workers, childcare workers, food service workers, transportation workers, warehouse workers, and all frontline workers; and

WHEREAS, Essential workers are willing to put their own health at risk to continue to meet their existing responsibilities to maintain safety and public health while overcoming staggering new challenges posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, These workers have risen to the task and carried out critical missions designed to protect the health and safety of New Jersey communities, and to minimize the disruption that COVID-19 has caused to daily life; and

WHEREAS, A designated day to commemorate essential workers who continued to work during the COVID-19 pandemic is necessary to help bring awareness to these heroes, and to demonstrate support for those individuals that every day risked their safety for the health and well-being of this State; now, therefore,

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

C.36:2-402 “COVID-19 Heroes Day,” March 9; designated.

1. March 9 of each year shall be designated as “COVID-19 Heroes Day” in New Jersey to honor essential workers.

C.36:2-403 Annual observance.

2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a proclamation each year calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe “COVID-19 Heroes Day” with appropriate activities and programs.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved March 9, 2021.