

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 82

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 4, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

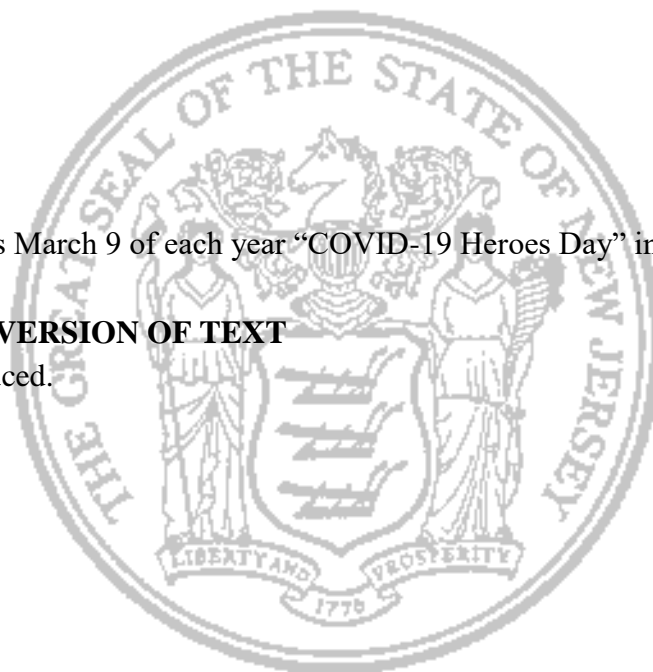
Senators T.Kean, Lagana, Pou, Scutari, Madden, Assemblywomen Jasey, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblyman Wirths, Assemblywoman Lopez, Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblymen McKeon and Space

SYNOPSIS

Designates March 9 of each year "COVID-19 Heroes Day" in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

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

3

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

7 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has the second highest incidence of COVID-
8 19 in the United States, leading to the State’s healthcare system and
9 economy becoming overwhelmed; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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48 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This resolution designates March 9 of each year as “COVID-19 Heroes Day” in New Jersey.

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. New Jersey, which has the second highest incidence of COVID-19 in the United States, has struggled to overcome an overwhelmed healthcare system and economy. In response to the devastating effects of COVID-19, the New Jersey Governor issued a declaration of a State of Emergency on March 9, 2020, and called upon essential workers to keep the State’s citizens safe and healthy.

Essential workers provide necessary services which are essential to the public's health, safety, and welfare during a State of Emergency, and includes from healthcare workers, first responders, pharmacy workers, postal workers, childcare workers, food service workers, transportation workers, warehouse workers, and all frontline workers. Essential workers have proven that they are willing to put their own health at risk to continue to meet their responsibilities to maintain safety and public health while overcoming the staggering and varied new challenges posed by COVID-19. Essential workers have risen to this task and have carried out critical missions to protect the health and safety of the citizens of the State, minimizing the disruption that COVID-19 has caused to daily life. 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.