

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 131

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 17, 1997

By Assemblyman COHEN

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the late Justice William J. Brennan.
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3 WHEREAS, The death of retired Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan
4 on July 24, 1997 was an occasion of great sorrow for all citizens of this
5 nation but most particularly for the citizens of this State; and
6 WHEREAS, William J. Brennan was born in Newark, New Jersey on April 25,
7 1906 and upon his graduation from Harvard Law School in 1931 practiced
8 law in Newark; and
9 WHEREAS, William J. Brennan played a key role in the movement to reform
10 the State judicial system and helped propose changes in that system which
11 were adopted by the Constitutional Convention of 1947; and
12 WHEREAS, William J. Brennan was appointed Assignment Judge in Hudson
13 County by Governor Alfred E. Driscoll in 1949 and the old Hudson
14 County Courthouse was named after Justice Brennan in September of
15 1988; and
16 WHEREAS, William J. Brennan served on the Appellate Division and the New
17 Jersey Supreme Court; and
18 WHEREAS, After four years of service on the New Jersey Supreme Court
19 William J. Brennan was named by President Dwight D. Eisenhower
20 to the United States Supreme Court; and
21 WHEREAS, Justice Brennan's role and influence on the United States
22 Supreme Court is evidenced in his authorship of 461 majority opinions, 425
23 dissents and 474 other opinions; and
24 WHEREAS, Justice Brennan delivered the opinion of the Court in cases such
25 as Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186 (1962) providing that voting districts should
26 be apportioned so that voting blocks are equal; in New York Times Co.
27 v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. 254 (1964) concerning the constitutional protections
28 of the First Amendment for speech and press limiting a State's power to
29 award damages in a libel action brought by a public official against
30 critics of their official conduct in the absence of "actual malice;" and
31 Goldberg v. Kelly, 397 U.S. 254 (1970) holding that a welfare recipient
32 was entitled to an evidentiary hearing prior to termination of benefits in
33 order to provide procedural due process; and
34 WHEREAS, Justice Brennan's career on the highest court continued for 34
35 years and his contributions to the jurisprudence of the court will continue

1 for countless years beyond those years of service; now, therefore,

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3 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*

4 *(the Senate concurring):*

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6 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey honors the late Justice
7 William J. Brennan for his service to this nation, this State and the legal
8 profession and extends deepest sympathies to his family.

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10 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of
11 the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the
12 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be
13 transmitted to the family of the late Justice William J. Brennan.

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STATEMENT

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18 This concurrent resolution honors the late Justice William J. Brennan for
19 his service to this nation, this State and the legal profession and extends
20 deepest sympathies to his family.

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25 Honors the late Justice William J. Brennan.