

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 161

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED MAY 4, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Calls upon Congress to release funds to offset COVID-19 related losses to DMVA's veteran memorial homes, and to fully fund rebuilding two veteran memorial homes.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2021)

**AJR161 TUCKER**

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1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** calling upon Congress to release funds to  
2       offset COVID-19 related losses to veteran memorial homes  
3       operated by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans  
4       Affairs, and to fully fund rebuilding certain veteran memorial  
5       homes.

6  
7   **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans  
8       Affairs (DMVA) operates three veteran memorial homes; and

9   **WHEREAS**, The memorial homes are located in Paramus, Menlo Park,  
10       and Vineland; and

11   **WHEREAS**, The memorial homes accommodate approximately 950  
12       veterans, spouses, and the spouses and parents of veterans killed in  
13       action; and

14   **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the  
15       residents and staff at the memorial homes; and

16   **WHEREAS**, There have been staff and residents infected by COVID-19,  
17       and there have been staff and resident deaths related to COVID-19;  
18       and

19   **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic losses to the  
20       memorial homes due to staffing shortages, overtime and contract  
21       nursing care costs, food shortages, costs related to protective  
22       personal equipment, and lost revenue due to a prohibition on new  
23       admittances; and

24   **WHEREAS**, The economic impact of COVID-19 to DMVA is projected  
25       to be approximately \$15 million dollars, a severe financial hardship;  
26       and

27   **WHEREAS**, It is imperative that Congress provide COVID-19 related  
28       funding to DMVA for its memorial homes so that the residents have  
29       a safe environment, and DMVA can fully and properly operate the  
30       memorial homes; and

31   **WHEREAS**, In addition, federal funding is urgently needed to rebuild the  
32       decaying memorial homes; and

33   **WHEREAS**, The Vineland veteran memorial home was rebuilt and  
34       rededicated in 2005, while the Paramus and Menlo Park locations are  
35       decades old; and

36   **WHEREAS**, Our veterans and their families have sacrificed so much, and  
37       they should not have to suffer because of COVID-19 related  
38       shortages, or live in decaying buildings; now, therefore,

39

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

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43       1. This State calls upon Congress to release funds to offset  
44       COVID-19 related losses to the veteran memorial homes operated by  
45       the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and to  
46       fully fund rebuilding the Paramus and Menlo Park veteran memorial  
47       homes.

1       2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
2 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the  
3 Secretary of the Senate to the Adjutant General of the New Jersey  
4 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Majority and  
5 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and  
6 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and  
7 to every member of Congress elected from this State.

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9       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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12                                   STATEMENT  
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14       This Joint Resolution calls upon Congress to release funds to  
15 offset COVID-19 related losses to the veteran memorial homes  
16 operated by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans  
17 Affairs (DMVA).

18       DMVA operates three veteran memorial homes. The homes are  
19 located in Paramus, Menlo Park, and Vineland. Collectively, the  
20 three memorial homes accommodate approximate 950 veterans,  
21 spouses, and the spouses and parents of veterans killed in action. The  
22 COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the residents and staff at  
23 the memorial homes. There have been staff and residents infected by  
24 the virus, as well as staff and resident deaths related to the virus.

25       COVID-19 has caused a financial hardship to DMVA because of  
26 the lost revenue due to a prohibition on new admittances, overtime  
27 and contract nursing care, food shortages, and costs related to  
28 personal protective equipment. The economic loss to DMVA is  
29 projected to be more than \$15 million dollars. It is imperative that  
30 Congress provide COVID-19 related funding to DMVA for its  
31 memorial homes so that the residents have a safe environment, and  
32 DMVA can fully and properly operate the memorial homes.

33       In addition, federal funding is urgently needed to rebuild the  
34 decaying memorial homes. The Vineland veteran memorial home  
35 was rebuilt and rededicated in 2005, while the Paramus and Menlo  
36 Park locations are decades old. Our veterans and their families have  
37 sacrificed so much. They should not have to suffer because of  
38 COVID-19 related shortages, or live in decaying buildings.