

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 216

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 17, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman CHRISTOPHER P. DEPHILLIPS**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Mukherji, Wirths, Space, Assemblywoman Swain,  
Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywoman DiMaso and Assemblyman  
Freiman**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates March 10 of each year as “COVID-19 Memorial Day.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)

1    **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating March 10 of each year as  
 2       “COVID-19 Memorial Day” and as a State day of mourning for  
 3       the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4  
 5    **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that has caused a  
 6       global pandemic, leading to an unprecedented public health crisis  
 7       and immense loss of life throughout New Jersey and the world;  
 8       and

9    **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed over half a  
 10       million lives in the United States and over 2.5 million lives  
 11       worldwide; and

12   **WHEREAS**, On March 10, 2020, State health officials announced the  
 13       first coronavirus death in New Jersey; and

14   **WHEREAS**, In the following months, New Jersey became an early  
 15       epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, peaking  
 16       at over 8,200 hospitalizations on April 14, 2020 and 458 reported  
 17       COVID-19-related daily deaths on April 30, 2020; and

18   **WHEREAS**, Since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has infected  
 19       over 792,000 New Jersey residents and has claimed the lives of  
 20       over 23,000 New Jersey residents; and

21   **WHEREAS**, Millions of New Jersey residents are mourning the loss of  
 22       beloved family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors; and

23   **WHEREAS**, Frontline healthcare and essential workers selflessly  
 24       continued to serve their communities throughout the pandemic,  
 25       suffering tragic losses and hardships with many workers contracting  
 26       COVID-19 and losing their lives to the virus; and

27   **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed several systematic  
 28       inequalities in our society and has disproportionately affected and  
 29       claimed the lives of individuals in minority and vulnerable  
 30       communities; and

31   **WHEREAS**, While the State’s vaccination campaigns aims to reduce  
 32       the transmission of COVID-19 and end this public health  
 33       emergency, New Jersey has suffered heavy losses and it is proper  
 34       and fitting that this State remembers and celebrates the lives that  
 35       have been claimed by COVID-19 and honors all victims of the  
 36       COVID-19 pandemic in a day of public mourning; now, therefore,

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

40  
 41       1. March 10 of each year shall be designated as “COVID-19  
 42       Memorial Day” and as a day of public mourning in the State of New  
 43       Jersey in honor of all the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic.

44  
 45       2. The Governor is respectfully requested to lower State flags  
 46       to half-staff and to issue a proclamation calling upon public  
 47       officials and the citizens of New Jersey to observe the day with  
 48       appropriate activities and programs.

1       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6       This joint resolution designates March 10 of each year as  
7 “COVID-19 Memorial Day” and as a day of public mourning in the  
8 State of New Jersey in honor of all the victims of the COVID-19  
9 pandemic.

10       The joint resolution respectfully requests the Governor to lower  
11 State flags to half-staff and to issue a proclamation calling upon  
12 public officials and the citizens of New Jersey to observe the day  
13 with appropriate activities and programs.