

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

**No. 220**

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED MARCH 25, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates October 19th of each year as “Mike ‘Doc’ Emrick Day” in NJ.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1    **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating October 19th of each year as  
2       “Mike ‘Doc’ Emrick Day” in New Jersey.  
3  
4    **WHEREAS**, Mike “Doc” Emrick was born on August 1st, 1946, in La  
5       Fontaine, Indiana and at age 14 decided to pursue a career  
6       broadcasting hockey; and  
7    **WHEREAS**, After receiving undergraduate and graduate degrees in  
8       speech and radio television, Mike Emrick received a Ph.D. in  
9       Broadcasting Communications from Bowling Green State  
10      University in Ohio, earning him the nickname “Doc”; and  
11   **WHEREAS**, Following several years of broadcasting lower tier  
12      professional hockey matches, Dr. Emrick became the play-by-play  
13      announcer for the National Hockey League’s New Jersey Devils;  
14      and  
15   **WHEREAS**, During his 21 year career as the Devil’s play-by-play  
16      announcer, Dr. Emrick became well known for his mastery of the  
17      English language and his use of humor to describe hockey and  
18      made the sport accessible to millions of fans across the country; and  
19   **WHEREAS**, In addition to announcing New Jersey Devils matches, Dr.  
20      Emrick was involved in announcing the Stanley Cup Finals, several  
21      NHL All-Star Games, and several hockey matches at the Olympic  
22      Games; and  
23   **WHEREAS**, As a founding member and President of the National  
24      Hockey League Pronunciation Guide, Dr. Emrick contributed to the  
25      National Hockey League and the profession of sports broadcasting  
26      by ensuring all players have their names properly pronounced; and  
27   **WHEREAS**, In 2011, Dr. Emrick became the first broadcaster to be  
28      inducted into the United States Hockey Hall of Fame, and was  
29      inducted into an additional six halls of fame and has received  
30      numerous other awards and accolades; and  
31   **WHEREAS**, Dr. Emrick announced his retirement on October 19, 2020,  
32      after an illustrious career that included announcing over 3,750  
33      hockey matches as well as football and college basketball games;  
34      and  
35   **WHEREAS**, A 1991 cancer diagnosis deepened Dr. Emrick’s reputation  
36      among fans and colleagues as a kind and generous person through  
37      his offerings of support to other survivors and inspiring outlook on  
38      life; and  
39   **WHEREAS**, Offering mentorship and guidance, Dr. Emrick has become  
40      an advocate and role model to up and coming broadcasters of all  
41      ages; and  
42   **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for the State of New Jersey to honor  
43      Mike “Doc” Emrick on the anniversary of his retirement  
44      announcement by designating October 19th of each year as “Mike  
45      ‘Doc’ Emrick Day”; now, therefore,  
46  
47        **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
48        *State of New Jersey:*

1       1. October 19th of each year is designated as “Mike ‘Doc’  
2       Emrick Day” in New Jersey.

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4       2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a  
5       proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State  
6       to observe “Mike ‘Doc’ Emrick Day” with appropriate activities  
7       and programs.

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9       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14       This joint resolution designates October 19th of each year as  
15       “Mike ‘Doc’ Emrick Day” in New Jersey. Mike “Doc” Emrick  
16       announced his retirement from broadcasting on October 19th, 2020.  
17       At age 14, Mike “Doc” Emrick decided to have a career in hockey.  
18       After receiving undergraduate and graduate degrees in speech and  
19       radio television, Mike Emrick received a Ph.D. in Broadcasting  
20       Communications and became known as “Doc.”

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22       Doc Emrick began his career broadcasting lower tier professional  
23       hockey matches and then became the play-by-play announcer for  
24       the National Hockey League’s New Jersey Devils, a position he  
25       held for 21 seasons. During that time, Doc Emrick became well  
26       known for his mastery of the English language and his humor,  
27       making hockey feel more accessible to fans.

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29       Doc Emrick’s career also included announcing the Stanley Cup  
30       Finals, NHL All-Star Games, and several Olympic hockey matches,  
31       as well as being a founder member and president of the National  
32       Hockey League Pronunciation Guide. This work was recognized  
33       within the industry, leading Doc Emrick to be the first broadcaster  
34       inducted into the United States Hockey Hall of Fame, as well as  
35       earning him many other awards and accolades. Doc Emrick has  
36       offered support and inspiration to a new generation of up and  
37       coming broadcasters, as well as fellow cancer survivors through his  
38       guidance, advocacy, support, and inspirational outlook on life.