P.L. 2021, Joint Resolution No. 1, *approved March 9*, 2021 Senate Joint Resolution No. 82

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating March 9 of each year as 1 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 health crisis throughout the United States; and 6 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 throughout New Jersey, the Governor issued a declaration of a State 11 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 been called upon to keep the State's citizens safe and healthy; and 15 16 WHEREAS, Essential workers provide services which involve interactions with the public and are essential to the public's health, 17 safety, and welfare during a State of Emergency, and includes 18 19 healthcare workers, first responders, pharmacy workers, postal workers, childcare workers, food service workers, transportation 20 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 and public health while overcoming staggering new challenges 24 25 posed by COVID-19; and WHEREAS, These workers have risen to the task and carried out 26 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 WHEREAS, A designated day to commemorate essential workers 30 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. 36 37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and General Assembly of the 38 State of New Jersey: 39 40 1. March 9 of each year shall be designated as "COVID-19 41 Heroes Day" in New Jersey to honor essential workers.

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

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

11 This resolution designates March 9 of each year as "COVID-1912 Heroes Day" in New Jersey.

13 COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that has caused a global 14 pandemic leading to an unprecedented and overwhelming public 15 health crisis throughout the United States. New Jersey, which has 16 the second highest incidence of COVID-19 in the United States, has 17 struggled to overcome an overwhelmed healthcare system and 18 economy. In response to the devastating effects of COVID-19, the 19 New Jersey Governor issued a declaration of a State of Emergency 20 on March 9, 2020, and called upon essential workers to keep the 21 State's citizens safe and healthy.

22 Essential workers provide necessary services which are essential 23 to the public's health, safety, and welfare during a State of 24 Emergency, and includes from healthcare workers, first responders, 25 pharmacy workers, postal workers, childcare workers, food service 26 workers, transportation workers, warehouse workers, and all 27 frontline workers. Essential workers have proven that they are willing to put their own health at risk to continue to meet their 28 29 responsibilities to maintain safety and public health while 30 overcoming the staggering and varied new challenges posed by 31 COVID-19. Essential workers have risen to this task and have carried out critical missions to protect the health and safety of the 32 33 citizens of the State, minimizing the disruption that COVID-19 has 34 caused to daily life. A designated day to commemorate essential 35 workers who continued to work during the COVID-19 pandemic is 36 necessary to help bring awareness to these heroes and to 37 demonstrate support for those individuals that every day risked their 38 safety for the health and well-being of this State.

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43 Designates March 9 of each year "COVID-19 Heroes Day" in44 New Jersey.