

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 194

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 17, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman Jaffer, Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywoman Haider,
Assemblymen DePhillips, Atkins and Assemblywoman Park**

SYNOPSIS

Designates January of each year as “Muslim Heritage Month” in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/23/2023)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of January of each
2 year as “Muslim Heritage Month” in the State of New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey takes great pride in the varied
5 religious and cultural traditions of residents of this State and seeks
6 to afford all people in New Jersey the opportunity to better
7 understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich histories, cultures,
8 and shared principles of Muslim Americans; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Muslims are the world’s second largest religious group,
10 with 1.9 billion adherents, representing approximately 25 percent of
11 the world’s population; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Muslims have made significant contributions that shape
13 our world, including notable achievements in philosophy,
14 mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine,
15 architecture, music, literature, and the arts; and
16 **WHEREAS**, The 3.45 million Muslims in the United States come from
17 diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, including immigrants and
18 native-born Americans, and represent approximately 1.1 percent of
19 the country’s population; and
20 **WHEREAS**, The history of Muslims in the United States dates back to
21 before the country’s founding, originating with enslaved Africans,
22 of whom scholars estimate as many as 30 percent were Muslim,
23 who brought Islamic beliefs and practices with them and
24 contributed in numerous ways to the founding of the nation,
25 including courageous and dedicated military service in every major
26 war from the American Revolutionary War until today; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Successive waves of Muslim immigrants from all over the
28 world have enriched American society; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Muslim Americans strive to promote peace and mutual
30 understanding between all faiths and identities, while upholding the
31 values and principles of Islam and those of the United States of
32 America; and
33 **WHEREAS**, There are nearly 300,000 Muslim Americans in New
34 Jersey, representing one of the largest Muslim American
35 populations of any state in the United States, including numerous
36 current and former elected officials dedicated to public service in
37 their communities; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Incidents of anti-Muslim violence and rhetoric are still
39 prevalent in our State and educational initiatives are critical to
40 combatting bigotry; and
41 **WHEREAS**, The people of New Jersey benefit from the social
42 benevolence, patriotism, philanthropy, humanitarianism, advocacy,
43 civic engagement, culture, and business of Muslim Americans and
44 Muslim American organizations that operate within the State; and
45 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey recognizes the positive impact Muslims have
46 made, and continue to make, to the advancement of this State and
47 the nation, and believes it is appropriate to acknowledge and

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1 promote awareness and appreciation of the invaluable contributions
2 of Muslim Americans; now, therefore,

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4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
5 *State of New Jersey:*

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7 1. The month of January of each year is designated as “Muslim
8 Heritage Month” in the State of New Jersey.

9 The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a proclamation
10 each year calling upon the people of New Jersey, local government
11 agencies, and interested organizations to observe this month with
12 appropriate ceremonies, activities, and educational programs.

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14 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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19 This Joint Resolution designates the month of January of each
20 year as “Muslim Heritage Month” in the State of New Jersey. This
21 designation would allow the State and its residents to respectfully
22 acknowledge and promote awareness and appreciation of Muslim
23 Americans and recognize the many contributions of the State’s
24 Muslim community.