

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 198

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 21, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman GERRY SCHARFENBERGER**

**District 13 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblywoman VICTORIA A. FLYNN**

**District 13 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Dunn, Assemblymen Wirths, Space and Sauickie**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates April 14 of each year as “Military Child Appreciation Day” in NJ.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/30/2023)

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating April 14 of each year as  
2       “Military Child Appreciation Day” in NJ and amending P.L.  
3       2022, J.R.3.  
4  
5   **WHEREAS**, Members of the American military serve with honor and  
6       distinction in defense of the freedoms and values which American  
7       men and women enjoy every day; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, Members of the American military share many of the  
9       burdens that accompany military service with their family; and  
10   **WHEREAS**, According to the Military Child Education Coalition, there  
11       are approximately two million United States military children under  
12       the age of 18, 1.1 million of whom are school-aged; and  
13   **WHEREAS**, Many military children have known only war since  
14       September 11, 2001, including those military children whose  
15       parents made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives in the  
16       defense of the United States; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, Military children often have to adapt their lives to the  
18       requirements of their parent’s military obligations, and shoulder  
19       responsibilities beyond their years; and  
20   **WHEREAS**, In 1986, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger  
21       established the month of April as the United States Department of  
22       Defense’s “Month of the Military Child” in an effort to increase  
23       public knowledge and understanding of the issues surrounding  
24       children who have a parent in the military; and  
25   **WHEREAS**, Since 1986, there have been an increasing number of  
26       awareness campaigns aimed at recognizing the needs of military  
27       children in all areas, such as coping with the deployment of a parent  
28       to war zones; and  
29   **WHEREAS**, Every April, the United States military services and  
30       communities around the world recognize military children for their  
31       daily sacrifices and the challenges they must overcome; and  
32   **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has recognized the sacrifices of military  
33       children by joining the Interstate Compact on Educational  
34       Opportunity for Military Children to remove barriers to educational  
35       success imposed on the children of military families due to the  
36       frequent moves and deployment of a parent; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, In April 2022, New Jersey recognized April as “Military  
38       Child Appreciation Month” and the last week of April as “Military  
39       Child Appreciation Week”; and  
40   **WHEREAS**, New Jersey will continue to take every opportunity to  
41       honor and recognize the brave men and women who serve their  
42       country and State by supporting and recognizing these children and  
43       young American heroes; now, therefore,

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
2 *State of New Jersey:*

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4       1. Section 1 of P.L.2022, J.R.3 (C.36:2-420) is amended to read  
5 as follows:

6       1. In order to recognize the sacrifice and bravery of military  
7 children and to encourage the State of New Jersey's continued  
8 commitment and support for military children living in the State:

9       a. The month of April of each year is designated as "Military  
10 Child Appreciation Month" in New Jersey.

11       b. The last full week of April of each year is designated as  
12 "Military Child Appreciation Week" in New Jersey.

13       c. April 14 of each year is designated as "Military Child  
14 Appreciation Day" in New Jersey.

15 (cf: P.L.2022, J.R.3, s.1)

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17       2. Section 2 of P.L.2022, J.R.3 (C.36:2-421) is amended to read  
18 as follows:

19       2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a  
20 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of the  
21 State to observe "Military Child Appreciation Month<sub>1</sub>" **[and]**  
22 "Military Child Appreciation Week<sub>1</sub>" and "Military Child  
23 Appreciation Day" with appropriate activities and programs.

24 (cf: P.L.2022, J.R.3, s.2)

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26       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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# STATEMENT

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31       This joint resolution designates April 14 of each year as  
32 "Military Child Appreciation Day" in New Jersey.

33       Members of the American military serve honorably in defense of  
34 the United States and the shared values of this nation. Such service  
35 is accompanied by many burdens which are shared by military  
36 families. In 1986, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger  
37 established the month of April as the "Month of the Military Child"  
38 to highlight the trials that military children endure from having a  
39 parent who serves in the Armed Forces, and the burdens they carry  
40 in support of our nation.

41       Since 1986, the Department of Defense has commemorated April  
42 as the "Month of the Military Child," and implemented various  
43 programs to aid military children and families. There has also been  
44 an increasing number of awareness campaigns aimed at recognizing  
45 the needs of military families, and New Jersey has already  
46 recognized April as "Military Child Appreciation Month" and the  
47 final week of April as "Military Child Appreciation Week."

**AJR198 SCHARFENBERGER, FLYNN**

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1       It is therefore fitting and proper for the State of New Jersey to  
2 further commemorate military children by designating April 14 of  
3 each year as “Military Child Appreciation Day” in New Jersey.