

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 106

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 5, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator JEAN STANFIELD

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Cruz-Perez

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/2/2023)

SJR106 STANFIELD, BUCCO

2

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,
44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
46 *State of New Jersey:*

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.

SJR106 STANFIELD, BUCCO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
17 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of the
18 State to observe "Military Child Appreciation Month," **[and]**
19 "Military Child Appreciation Week," and "Military Child
20 Appreciation Day" with appropriate activities and programs.

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

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23 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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

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

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

45 It is therefore fitting and proper for the State of New Jersey to
46 further commemorate military children by designating April 14 of
47 each year as "Military Child Appreciation Day" in New Jersey.