

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 18

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Designates May 27 of each year as “Richard Rescorla Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating May 27 of each year as “Richard
2 Rescorla Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Rick Rescorla, born as Cyril Richard Rescorla on
5 May 27, 1939 in the Town of Hayle in Cornwall, England, United
6 Kingdom, was a United States Army officer and decorated Vietnam
7 veteran; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Prior to his military service in the United States, Rick
9 conducted intelligence operations with the British Army while
10 stationed in Cyprus and later became an inspector with the Northern
11 Rhodesian Police; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Afterwards, Rick returned to London to serve in Scotland
13 Yard’s elite “flying squad” of detectives before enlisting with the
14 U.S. Army in 1963; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Rick Rescorla, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry
16 Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, led his platoon during America’s
17 first major battle of the Vietnam conflict, the Battle of Ia Drang;
18 and
19 **WHEREAS**, In the book “We Were Soldiers Once...and Young,” the
20 commanding officer of the battle, Lieutenant General Harold G.
21 Moore (Ret.), described Rick Rescorla as “the best platoon leader I
22 ever saw”; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Rick Rescorla’s leadership and bravery in Vietnam earned
24 him two Bronze Stars, a Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the
25 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry; and
26 **WHEREAS**, The Battle of Ia Drang was not the last time this nation
27 would require the service of Rick Rescorla; and
28 **WHEREAS**, On September 11, 2001, Rick Rescorla, a resident of
29 Morristown, New Jersey, was serving as Vice President of Security
30 for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter at their headquarters in the World
31 Trade Center, where he regularly drilled the Morgan Stanley
32 employees in disaster preparedness and response, especially
33 evacuation; and
34 **WHEREAS**, After the North Tower was attacked on that fateful day,
35 Rick Rescorla dismissed Port Authority announcements to remain
36 in the building and led a massive evacuation of Morgan Stanley’s
37 2,700-person workforce located in the South Tower; and
38 **WHEREAS**, With bullhorn in hand, Rick calmly directed people down
39 the stairwell, ultimately saving the lives of all but six employees,
40 with many of the survivors recalling him singing Cornish folk
41 songs during the evacuation, assuring them, “Today is a day to be
42 proud to be an American. Tomorrow, the world will be looking at
43 you!”; and
44 **WHEREAS**, After the last of the employees had evacuated the South
45 Tower, Rick Rescorla returned to the building, despite fears that the
46 towers would fall, to make a final sweep to ensure everyone had
47 escaped safely; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Rick Rescorla was last seen alive accompanying firemen
2 up the stairwell on the tenth floor, shortly before the South Tower
3 collapsed, moving toward danger much in the same way he had
4 done 36 years prior at the Battle of Ia Drang; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Rick Rescorla perished in the South Tower and is survived
6 by his wife Susan, his daughter Kim, and his son Trevor; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Although Rick Rescorla's remains were never found, the
8 brave military officer is forever memorialized at the Raptor Trust
9 Bird Rehabilitation Center in Long Hill, New Jersey where his
10 epitaph is enshrined at the bald eagle sanctuary that served as a
11 place of solace for him and his wife; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Additional public memorials and accolades include an
13 engraving at the South Pool, on Panel S-46 at the National
14 September 11 Memorial and Museum, a statue of Rick on
15 permanent display at the National Infantry Museum at Fort
16 Benning, Georgia, along with a dedicated portion of the museum's
17 forthcoming exhibit covering the Global War on Terror, the Rick
18 Rescorla National Award for Resilience created by the Department
19 of Homeland Security, a passenger train operated by Great Western
20 Railways in the United Kingdom commissioned in honor of Rick, a
21 plaque honoring Rick at Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial,
22 a 2009 induction into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame, a stone
23 monument in Cornwall, England, and the Department of Homeland
24 Security's highest honor the Distinguished Public Service Medal,
25 awarded posthumously; and

26 **WHEREAS**, In 2019, President Donald J. Trump presented the
27 Presidential Citizens Medal, the second-highest civilian award,
28 posthumously to the late Rick Rescorla, which was accepted on his
29 behalf by his widow Susan Rescorla and his son Trevor; and

30 **WHEREAS**, By sharing Rick's story throughout the world, Susan
31 Rescorla continues to immortalize the heroes, first responders, and
32 victims of 9/11/2001, as well as Vietnam Veterans; and

33 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for the State of New Jersey to
34 designate May 27 of each year, Rick Rescorla's birthday, as "Rick
35 Rescorla Day" to honor a decorated Vietnam veteran who made a
36 valiant and selfless sacrifice on one of our nation's darkest days;
37 now, therefore,

38

39 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
40 *State of New Jersey:*

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42 1. May 27 of each year shall be designated as "Richard
43 Rescorla Day" to honor the life and commitment to service of
44 Richard Rescorla who valiantly and unselfishly served the United
45 States with honor during the Vietnam conflict and on September 11,
46 2001.

1 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a
2 proclamation each year calling upon public officials and the citizens
3 of this State to observe "Richard Rescorla Day" with appropriate
4 activities and programs.

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6 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This joint resolution designates May 27 of each year as "Rick
12 Rescorla Day" in New Jersey.

13 Colonel Rick Rescorla, born as Cyril Richard Rescorla on May 27,
14 1939 in the town of Hayle in Cornwall, England, was a United States
15 Army officer and decorated Vietnam veteran. Rick Rescorla, assigned
16 to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division,
17 successfully led his platoon during America's first major battle of the
18 Vietnam conflict, the Battle of Ia Drang. Rick Rescorla's leadership
19 and bravery in Vietnam earned him two Bronze Stars, a Silver Star, the
20 Purple Heart, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

21 On September 11, 2001, Rick Rescorla, a resident of Morristown,
22 New Jersey, was serving as Vice President of Security for Morgan
23 Stanley Dean Witter at their headquarters in the World Trade Center.
24 Following the attacks on the World Trade Center, Rick Rescorla
25 dismissed Port Authority announcements to remain in the building and
26 led a massive evacuation of Morgan Stanley's 2,700-person workforce
27 located in the South Tower. After the last of the employees had
28 evacuated the South Tower, Rick Rescorla returned to the building,
29 despite fears that the towers would fall, to make a final sweep. Rick
30 Rescorla was last seen alive accompanying firemen up the stairwell on
31 the tenth floor, shortly before the South Tower collapsed, moving
32 toward danger much in the same way he had done 36 years prior at the
33 Battle of Ia Drang.

34 Although Rick Rescorla's remains were never found, the brave
35 military officer is forever memorialized at the Raptor Trust Bird
36 Rehabilitation Center in Long Hill, New Jersey where his epitaph is
37 enshrined at the bald eagle sanctuary that served as a place of solace
38 for him and his wife. Additional public memorials and accolades
39 include the following:

- 40 • an engraving at the South Pool, on Panel S-46 at the National
41 September 11 Memorial and Museum;
- 42 • a statue of Rick on permanent display at the National Infantry
43 Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia, along with a dedicated
44 portion of the museum's forthcoming exhibit covering the
45 Global War on Terror;
- 46 • the Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience created by the
47 Department of Homeland Security,

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- 1 • a passenger train operated by Great Western Railways in the
- 2 United Kingdom commissioned in honor of Rick;
- 3 • a plaque honoring Rick at Mt. Soledad National Veterans
- 4 Memorial;
- 5 • a 2009 induction into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame;
- 6 • a stone monument in Cornwall, England;
- 7 • the Department of Homeland Security’s highest honor, the
- 8 Distinguished Public Service Medal, awarded posthumously;
- 9 and
- 10 • the Presidential Citizens Medal, the second-highest civilian
- 11 award, award posthumously.

12 It is fitting and proper for the State of New Jersey to designate May
13 27 of each year, Rick Rescorla’s birthday, as “Rick Rescorla Day” to
14 honor a decorated Vietnam veteran who made a valiant and selfless
15 sacrifice on one of our nation's darkest days.