

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 62

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Designates September 22nd of each year as “Veterans Suicide Awareness & Remembrance Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/28/2022)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating September 22 of each year as
2 “Veterans Suicide Awareness & Remembrance Day.”

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Individuals who have served in the United States military
5 made significant sacrifices to ensure that this nation and the
6 American people are safe and secure; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Members of the military are often deployed to remote
8 locations, far from family and friends for extended periods of time
9 and may not have regular contact with their loved ones; and

10 **WHEREAS**, These individuals may miss important milestones, such as
11 the birth of a child, family birthdays, and the funeral of a loved one
12 during their deployment; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Members of the military who are engaged in combat
14 operations face additional stresses including situations where they
15 may witness the death of fellow service members and living in
16 constant fear of their own injury or death; and

17 **WHEREAS**, These stress factors contribute to a sharp increase in the
18 diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder among active service
19 members and veterans; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Since 2010 more than 65,000 veterans and active military
21 have died by suicide, more than the total number of American
22 combat deaths from the Vietnam War and the post-9/11 conflicts
23 combined; and

24 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans
25 Affairs, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs, and various
26 nonprofit entities provide resources to veterans and active military
27 who are at risk of suicide including telephone hotlines and mental
28 health workshops; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Increasing public awareness about the increased risk of
30 suicide among veterans and active military can help inform veterans
31 and military, their family, and the public about the resources
32 available to these veterans and military and help eliminate the
33 stigma associated with mental health treatments; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Designating September 22nd of each year as “Veterans
35 Suicide Awareness & Remembrance Day” will raise our continued
36 awareness to this critical threat to the health and safety of
37 individuals who have sacrificed so much for their fellow Americans
38 in service of our beloved country; now, therefore,

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

42
43 1. September 22nd of each year is designated as “Veterans
44 Suicide Awareness & Remembrance Day” in the State of New
45 Jersey and is a day to recognize, remember, and honor the Veterans
46 and Active Military who died by suicide as well as to honor,
47 respect, and unite their families. It is a day to forever remember
48 their lives and service to our state and nation.

SJR62 A.M.BUCCO, CORRADO

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1 available to these veterans and military and help eliminate the
2 stigma associated with mental health treatments. Designating
3 September 22nd of each year as “Veterans Suicide Awareness &
4 Remembrance Day” will raise our continued awareness to this
5 critical threat to the health and safety of individuals who have
6 sacrificed so much for their fellow Americans in service of our
7 beloved country. This annual observance originated with Kevin W.
8 Hertell, a U.S. Air Force Veteran who lost his cousin to suicide in
9 2016, Senior Airman Robert McRae Dean, U.S. Air Force. Mr.
10 Hertell established this observance to recognize and forever
11 remember the life and death of Senior Airman Robert McRae Dean
12 and all other Veterans and Active Military members who have died
13 by suicide.