

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the last weekend in October as “Honor Your Hometown Weekend.”

WHEREAS, The cornerstone of the strength of the State and nation lies in the towns, small and large, that make them up; and

WHEREAS, The common experiences of those growing up in a hometown remains an integral part of their lives, regardless of the corner of the globe where they may reside; and

WHEREAS, Hometowns are a reminder that shared commonalities are far greater and more important than anything that may divide people; and

WHEREAS, The essence of democracy is exhibited in the towns, cities, and neighborhoods where people work together to build and sustain the cultural, philanthropic, local government, small business, religious, athletic, and volunteer enterprises that enrich communities and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Formally acknowledging the essential power of hometowns will help people overcome divisions, renew friendships, and enhance civil discourse; and

WHEREAS, In the spirit of Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, which have been celebrated State holidays since 1944, there should be a permanent celebration and more formal recognition of hometowns as one of the greatest unifying forces for communities in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Legendary New Jersey native, Bruce Springsteen, best captured the value of hometowns when he said of Freehold, “everything I’ve learned of deep importance, I learned in this town;” and

WHEREAS, Every resident, community, business, civic institution, and other organization should have the opportunity to celebrate annually the unique attributes and history of their hometown; and

WHEREAS, The State and the nation should formally honor the positive impact of the hometowns that shape the lives of all; now, therefore,

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

C.36:2-492 “Honor Your Hometown Weekend,” last weekend in October.

1. The last weekend in October of each year is designated as “Honor Your Hometown Weekend” in New Jersey to recognize and appreciate the towns, cities, communities, and neighborhoods that have shaped the bonds between people, with the State, and with the nation.

C.36:2-493 Annual proclamation.

2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and all citizens of this State to observe “Honor Your Hometown Weekend” with appropriate programs and activities and to, until so designated, call upon Congress and the President of the United States to designate a national weekend of celebration to honor America’s hometowns for the reasons set forth in this resolution.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 12, 2026.