

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 120

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LATHAM TIVER**

**District 8 (Atlantic and Burlington)**

**Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates month of March as “Military and Law Enforcement Working Dogs Month.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2024)

**SJR120 TIVER, CORRADO**

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- 1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of March as “Military  
2 and Law Enforcement Working Dogs Month.”  
3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, Military and law enforcement working dogs play an  
5 important role in protecting our nation from both foreign and  
6 domestic threats; and
- 7 **WHEREAS**, Military working dogs were initially selected from seven  
8 breeds: German Shepherds, Belgian Sheepdogs, Doberman  
9 Pinschers, Collies, Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes, and  
10 Eskimo Dogs and underwent basic training for two to three months  
11 before moving into specialized programs to train for work as either  
12 sentry dogs, patrol dogs, messenger dogs, or mine-detection dogs;  
13 and
- 14 **WHEREAS**, Nearly 16,000 dogs have served in the armed forces since  
15 World War II and have played a critical role in saving lives and  
16 preventing battlefield injuries to American service members; and
- 17 **WHEREAS**, Dogs offer significant advantages to humans as they  
18 possess superior vision, a powerful sense of smell, and can subdue  
19 or intimidate the enemy with the use of non-lethal force; and
- 20 **WHEREAS**, Dogs also exhibit a number of personality traits that make  
21 them particularly suitable for military service such as intelligence,  
22 loyalty, dependability, and adaptability; and
- 23 **WHEREAS**, Law enforcement, recognizing the advantages dogs could  
24 provide in conducting their own operations, enlisted the help of  
25 working dogs beginning in the 1970s; and
- 26 **WHEREAS**, In their law enforcement role, working dogs perform  
27 similar tasks to their military counterparts by assisting in the  
28 apprehension of suspects; detection of drugs, explosives, or other  
29 evidence in a criminal investigation; and performance of search and  
30 rescue operations during bombings, natural disasters, or missing  
31 persons cases; and
- 32 **WHEREAS**, The task of becoming the handler for a working dog  
33 requires substantial training which focuses on obedience,  
34 aggression control, tracking, searching, detection of dangerous  
35 materials, and proper care of a dog’s overall well-being; and
- 36 **WHEREAS**, Working dogs and their handlers are hardworking and  
37 courageous individuals who willingly place their own lives at risk  
38 in order to ensure the safety and security of our citizens each and  
39 every day; and
- 40 **WHEREAS**, March 13th is “National K9 Veterans Day” which  
41 commemorates the service and sacrifice of all working dogs  
42 because on March 13, 1942, the United States Army began its War  
43 Dog Program, or the “K9 Corps,” to formally train dogs for military  
44 use; now, therefore,  
45
- 46 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the  
47 State of New Jersey:



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1 powerful sense of smell, and can subdue enemy combatants with the  
2 use of non-lethal force.

3 After the successful launch of the K-9 Corps, local law  
4 enforcement began using working dogs to help in their own  
5 operations beginning in the 1970s. These dogs were used to assist  
6 in the apprehension of suspects; detection of drugs, explosives, or  
7 other evidence in a criminal investigation; and performance of  
8 search and rescue operations during bombings, natural disasters, or  
9 missing persons cases.

10 Not every dog is suitable for a role with military or law  
11 enforcement. Those selected to participate in a training program  
12 join an elite group of dogs that have exhibited proper temperament  
13 and decision making abilities. Today, German Shepherds are  
14 considered the most suitable for training programs because they  
15 consistently display the proper combination of intelligence,  
16 dependability, predictability, and adaptability.

17 Unleashing the potential of a working dog to carry out military  
18 and law enforcement objectives would not be possible without their  
19 handlers. Similar to the animals they work with, handlers go  
20 through a rigorous training program integrating classroom  
21 instruction, first aid, and real world simulations. This curriculum  
22 leaves them able to understand how a canine learns new behaviors,  
23 how to care for a dog, and how to operate with a dog in different  
24 environments.

25 The State of New Jersey is proud to recognize the contributions  
26 of this extraordinary group of military and law enforcement  
27 personnel by dedicating a month in their honor.