

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 103

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIK PETERSON

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Assemblyman JOHN DIMAIO

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Fantasia, Assemblymen Inganamort, Rumpf,

Assemblywomen Drulis, Flynn, Assemblyman Coughlin and

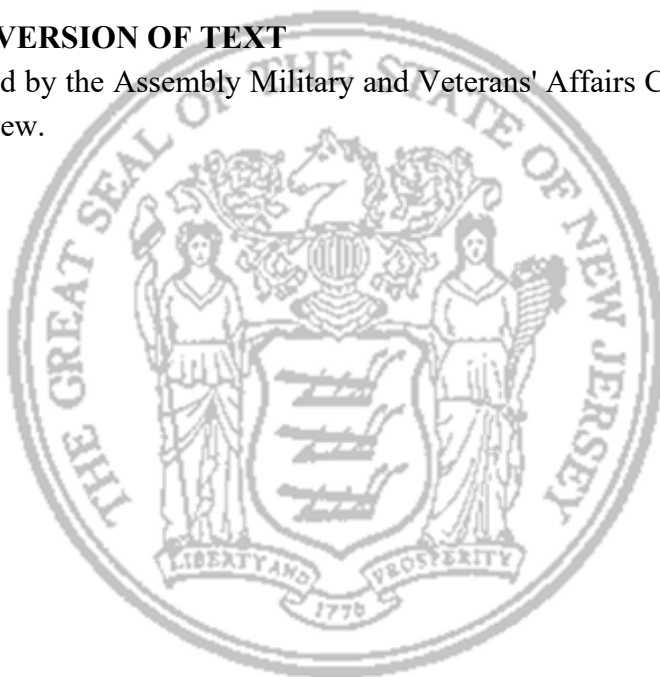
Assemblywoman Lopez

SYNOPSIS

Designates September 22 as "John Basilone Day."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/24/2026)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating September 22 of each year as
2 “John Basilone Day.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, John Basilone was raised in Raritan, New Jersey when he
5 left to enlist in the United States Army at age 17; and
6 **WHEREAS**, Basilone was honorably discharged from the Army and
7 began work as a truck driver before enlisting with the United States
8 Marine Corps in 1940, a year before the United States entered
9 World War II; and
10 **WHEREAS**, At the Battle of Guadalcanal, Gunnery Sergeant Basilone
11 commanded two heavy machine gun sections charged with
12 defending Henderson Field, a key Allied airstrip on the Solomon
13 Islands; and
14 **WHEREAS**, With one machine gun post destroyed by Japanese forces,
15 Gunnery Sergeant Basilone raced 200 yards with a 90 pound
16 machine gun in hand to secure a faltering line; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Gunnery Sergeant Basilone also ran through enemy
18 gunfire and between nearby machine gun posts repairing weapons
19 and resupplying fellow Marines with ammunition; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Successfully defending Henderson Field during the Battle
21 of Guadalcanal was a turning point for Allied forces as it
22 established their air superiority in the region and provided a
23 significant advantage in future engagements; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Gunnery Sergeant Basilone was awarded the
25 Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions at Henderson Field;
26 and
27 **WHEREAS**, Gunnery Sergeant Basilone was then sent back to the
28 United States where he was given a hero’s welcome; and
29 **WHEREAS**, The Marine Corps subsequently placed Gunnery Sergeant
30 Basilone on a nationwide war bonds tour which ultimately yielded
31 \$1.4 million pledged to the war effort; and
32 **WHEREAS**, With a strong desire to return to combat, Gunnery Sergeant
33 Basilone requested reassignment and was sent to Iwo Jima where
34 he freed a group of Marines trapped on the beach, led their assault
35 of an enemy guard post, and helped an Allied tank navigate through
36 a minefield; and
37 **WHEREAS**, As he initiated another attack, Gunnery Sergeant Basilone
38 was struck by mortar fire and succumbed to his wounds on the first
39 day of battle; and
40 **WHEREAS**, Gunnery Sergeant Basilone was posthumously awarded
41 the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart for his actions at Iwo Jima;
42 and
43 **WHEREAS**, Today Gunnery Sergeant Basilone’s heroism and sacrifice
44 are recognized in cities and towns across the country and at various
45 United States military installations; and
46 **WHEREAS**, HBO honored Gunnery Sergeant Basilone in its 2010
47 miniseries “The Pacific” which portrayed the experiences of

1 American servicemen fighting in the Pacific Theater during World
2 War II; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone is the only member of the
4 armed forces to earn both the Congressional Medal of Honor and
5 the Navy Cross, the nation's two highest military honors, for his
6 actions during World War II; now, therefore,

7

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

10

11 1. September 22 of each year is designated as "John Basilone
12 Day" in the State of New Jersey to honor the extraordinary heroism
13 displayed by New Jersey native John Basilone at the Battles of
14 Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima during World War II.

15

16 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue an annual
17 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State
18 to observe "John Basilone Day" with appropriate activities and
19 programs.

20

21 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.