

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 131

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2013

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Commemorates life, career, and accomplishments of Richard J. Sullivan, the State's first DEP Commissioner.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** commemorating the life, career, and
2 accomplishments of Richard J. Sullivan, the State's first
3 Environmental Protection Commissioner.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Richard J. Sullivan was born in Jersey City, New Jersey
6 and served in the United States Navy from 1945 to 1946; and
7 **WHEREAS**, After serving his country, Richard J. Sullivan earned a
8 bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Stevens Institute
9 of Technology, a master's degree in English from Seton Hall
10 University, and a master's degree in public health from Columbia
11 University, and later received honorary doctorate degrees from
12 Princeton University, Monmouth College, New Jersey Institute of
13 Technology, and Ramapo College; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Richard J. Sullivan began his illustrious career in public
15 service in 1950 as a public health engineer, and in 1970, was
16 appointed director of the New Jersey Division of Clean Air and
17 Water; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Richard J. Sullivan helped guide New Jersey as it became
19 the third state to consolidate all of its environmental and
20 conservation programs into a single, unified agency, the
21 Department of Environmental Protection; and
22 **WHEREAS**, In 1970, Governor William T. Cahill appointed Richard J.
23 Sullivan the first Commissioner of the new Department, a position
24 he served in for four years; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Under Richard J. Sullivan's leadership, the Department of
26 Environmental Protection flourished, administering many of the
27 State's most important environmental laws, including the Solid
28 Waste Management Act, the Coastal Wetlands Act, and the Coastal
29 Area Facility Review Act; and
30 **WHEREAS**, As Commissioner, Richard J. Sullivan was a tireless
31 advocate for the preservation of parks and open space, whose work
32 helped establish Liberty State Park, the most visited State park; and
33 **WHEREAS**, After his tenure as Commissioner, Richard J. Sullivan
34 served as a trusted advisor and friend to each of his successors, and
35 as a mentor and role model to numerous environmental leaders; and
36 **WHEREAS**, After a 25-year career in government, Richard J. Sullivan
37 served on the faculties at Princeton University and Stevens Institute
38 of Technology, and continued to serve on numerous boards and
39 commissions; and
40 **WHEREAS**, Richard J. Sullivan was one of the primary architects of the
41 Pinelands Commission, created in 1979 to preserve, protect, and
42 enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Pinelands; and
43 **WHEREAS**, In 1988, Governor Thomas H. Kean, Sr. appointed Richard
44 J. Sullivan to serve as the commission's second chairman, a
45 position he held for 10 years; and
46 **WHEREAS**, As Chairman, Richard J. Sullivan was instrumental in
47 maintaining the environmental standards set for the Pinelands,
48 while making the agency more accessible; and

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1 WHEREAS, In 2001, Richard J. Sullivan was recognized for his
2 contributions to the Pinelands with the dedication of the Richard J.
3 Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education at the
4 Pinelands Commission headquarters; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2005, the Richard J. Sullivan Natural Area within
6 Liberty State Park was named for him in recognition of over 50
7 years of dedication to improving New Jersey's environment; and

8 WHEREAS, Richard J. Sullivan's broad expertise, humility, and
9 willingness to help others, and his ability to treat everyone with the
10 utmost respect, regardless of their political views, contributed to the
11 civility of discourse in the State, and ultimately, the wisdom of the
12 State's environmental policies; and

13 WHEREAS, Richard J. Sullivan passed away peacefully at his home on
14 December 10, 2013, with his wife and children by his side; and

15 WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the Senate of the State of New Jersey
16 commemorate the life, career, and accomplishments of the Richard
17 J. Sullivan, a leader and role model whose life's work was
18 inextricably tied with the environmental progress of this State; now,
19 therefore,

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21 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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23 1. This House commemorates the life, career, and
24 accomplishments of Richard J. Sullivan, first Commissioner of the
25 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, second
26 Chairman of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, public servant,
27 role model, and tireless advocate for the preservation of parks and
28 open space.

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30 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution signed by the
31 President of the Senate, and attested to by the Secretary thereof,
32 shall be transmitted to the wife and children of Richard J. Sullivan.

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35 STATEMENT

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37 This resolution commemorates and life, career, and
38 accomplishments of Richard J. Sullivan, first Commissioner of the
39 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, second
40 Chairman of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, dedicated
41 public servant, role model, and tireless advocate for the
42 preservation of parks and open space.