

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 140**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Recognizes 138th anniversary of Knights of Columbus.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** recognizing the 138th anniversary of
2 the establishment of the Knights of Columbus.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, On October 2, 1881, Father Michael J. McGivney, the
5 assistant pastor of St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Connecticut,
6 gathered with a group of parishioners in a church basement to
7 establish a fraternal benefit organization with the purpose of
8 supporting widows and children in times of overwhelming need;
9 and
10 **WHEREAS**, On February 6, 1882, the Knights of Columbus selected
11 Christopher Columbus as its patron in reflection of their strong
12 Catholic faith and shared national heritage; and
13 **WHEREAS**, As a result of Father McGivney’s persistence and vision,
14 the State of Connecticut incorporated the Knights of Columbus on
15 March 29, 1882; and
16 **WHEREAS**, The Knights of Columbus has since flourished to become
17 the world’s largest lay organization of Catholic men and their
18 families, while continuing to abide by its core principles of charity,
19 unity, fraternity, and patriotism; and
20 **WHEREAS**, For 43 consecutive years, membership in the Knights of
21 Columbus has continued to grow, with 1.9 million members
22 throughout the United States, as well as the Bahamas, Canada,
23 Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guam, Lithuania,
24 Mexico, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, South Korea, Ukraine,
25 and the Virgin Islands; and
26 **WHEREAS**, The Knights of Columbus has consistently heeded the call
27 for service and sacrifice during times of great peril, such as
28 establishing bond drives and blood donor programs during World
29 War I and World War II, through the present day raising more than
30 \$10.5 million in relief aid for Christians and other displaced people
31 in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon; and
32 **WHEREAS**, The Knights of Columbus continues to expand the breadth
33 of its charitable works, setting all-time records in 2015 for
34 charitable donations and service hours, with \$175,079,192 in
35 donations and more than 73.5 million hours of service; and
36 **WHEREAS**, In addition to volunteer works, the Knights of Columbus
37 Insurance program is one of the largest life insurers in North
38 America with more than \$100 billion of life insurance in force, and
39 has earned A.M. Best’s highest rating, A++ (Superior), for 40
40 consecutive years; and
41 **WHEREAS**, The Knights of Columbus New Jersey State Council, in
42 particular, with its 330 councils and 64,000 members, can be
43 recognized by its successful endeavors throughout the State,
44 including the substantial charitable donations it regularly raises; and
45 **WHEREAS**, The Knights of Columbus New Jersey State Council is an
46 integral part of New Jersey’s heritage; and
47 **WHEREAS**, From local soup kitchens and cancer fundraisers, to the
48 national Coats for Kids program, the Knights of Columbus has

4

7

11

16

18

20

21

25

31

36

37

38