

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 202

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 4, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblymen Benson and Spearman

SYNOPSIS

Designates fourth week of March of each year as “Military Caregivers Week.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/1/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the fourth week of March of
2 each year as “Military Caregivers Week.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, There are approximately 5.5 million civilian, voluntary
5 caregivers of wounded, disabled and otherwise injured veterans;
6 and
7 **WHEREAS**, These spouses, parents, friends and sometimes children of
8 veterans often take care of their loved ones to their own detriment,
9 suffering loss of income, with 28 percent of post-9/11 caregivers
10 giving up employment to care for a service member; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Approximately 60 percent of post-9/11 caregivers also are
12 employed and must maintain employment while taking care of their
13 loved ones; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Military caregivers tend to be younger than civilian
15 informal caregivers, often meaning that the length of time that care
16 is provided by military caregivers is longer than the time by civilian
17 caregivers, increasing the burden placed upon military caregivers;
18 and
19 **WHEREAS**, Many of these caregivers spend more than 40 hours per
20 week providing care to veterans, and they often miss as many as
21 three or four days a month of work due to caregiving duties; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Many military caregivers experience a deterioration of
23 their own health and well-being, as they tend to reduce their own
24 healthy behaviors, such as attending their own medical or dental
25 appointments and exercising; and
26 **WHEREAS**, As many as two-thirds of all military caregivers may suffer
27 from some type of emotional stress and nearly 40 percent of these
28 caregivers are at risk for a major depression disorder; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Military caretakers also face social isolation, both due to
30 the lack of time these individuals have for themselves, as well as
31 feeling as though they can no longer relate to non-caregivers; and
32 **WHEREAS**, More than 53 percent of post-9/11 caregivers have no
33 support network, formal or otherwise, upon which they can rely;
34 and
35 **WHEREAS**, To duplicate the home health care and medical aide
36 services provided by these voluntary military caregivers would cost
37 taxpayers \$3 billion annually; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Up to 30 percent of those deployed related to Operation
39 Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom may have
40 experienced a traumatic brain injury or meet the criteria for post-
41 traumatic stress disorder or depression; and
42 **WHEREAS**, Providing support and resources for the individuals who
43 care for injured veterans helps ensure that the needs of veterans are
44 being adequately met, and the country owes a great debt of
45 gratitude to both these veterans and caregivers; and
46 **WHEREAS**, Raising awareness as to the challenges and burdens these
47 caregivers endure may lead to improved support systems and
48 greater accessibility to other resources; and

