

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 73

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RYAN E. PETERS**

**District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblyman BRIAN BERGEN**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Thomson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates last Sunday in January of each year as “Gold Star Father’s Day.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2020)

1    **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the last Sunday in January of  
2       each year as “Gold Star Father’s Day.”

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4    **WHEREAS**, Many fathers enjoy a close bond with their children and, in  
5       the event a child dies while serving our nation, the ensuing grief can  
6       be overwhelming; and

7    **WHEREAS**, The pain accompanying the loss of a child is something no  
8       father should ever have to know; and

9    **WHEREAS**, Their sons and daughters bravely joined a cause greater  
10       than themselves and journeyed to far corners of the globe to  
11       advance the cause of freedom and democracy abroad; and

12   **WHEREAS**, The tradition of the Gold Star dates back to World War I  
13       when families flew flags with gold stars as a sign they had lost a  
14       loved one fighting in the war; and

15   **WHEREAS**, Gold Star Fathers continue to inspire us with their strength  
16       and determination by working in our communities through  
17       organizations such as Gold Star Dads of America; and

18   **WHEREAS**, Gold Star Dads of America honors fallen service members,  
19       supports military families in their loss, and assists those who have  
20       recently returned from active service; and

21   **WHEREAS**, This State continues to remember its fallen and the  
22       families they left behind by constructing the New Jersey Gold Star  
23       Family Monument and by holding an annual POW/MIA Gold Star  
24       Mothers Recognition Ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam  
25       Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, New Jersey; and

26   **WHEREAS**, Americans will never forget the ultimate sacrifice made by  
27       members of our armed forces and the devastating impact this loss  
28       has on their families; and

29   **WHEREAS**, Although the debt this nation owes to Gold Star Fathers  
30       can never be repaid, we will continue to support our veterans and  
31       stand by our military fathers as they cope with unthinkable tragedy;  
32       and

33   **WHEREAS**, The State believes it is proper to set aside a day to honor  
34       this extraordinary group of fathers so that their sacrifices are  
35       properly acknowledged; now, therefore,

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37       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
38       *State of New Jersey:*

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40       1. The last Sunday in January of each year is designated as  
41       “Gold Star Father’s Day” to honor the sacrifice of Gold Star Fathers  
42       who have lost children serving in the United States Armed Forces

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44       2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue an annual  
45       proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State  
46       to observe “Gold Star Father’s Day” with appropriate activities and  
47       programs.

1       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6       This resolution designates the last Sunday in January of each  
7 year as “Gold Star Father’s Day” to honor the sacrifice of Gold Star  
8 Fathers who have lost children serving in the United States Armed  
9 Forces. This resolution also requests that the Governor issue an  
10 annual proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of  
11 this State to observe “Gold Star Father’s Day” with appropriate  
12 activities and programs.

13       Fathers, just like mothers, wives, and children, are profoundly  
14 impacted by the loss of a loved one serving our nation. Despite  
15 their pain and sorrow, Gold Star Fathers continue to inspire us  
16 through the work they do in our communities. Organizations such  
17 as Gold Star Dads of America help fathers find purpose in the  
18 aftermath of tragedy by honoring fallen soldiers, supporting  
19 military families, and assisting members of the armed forces  
20 returning home. Here in New Jersey, the sacrifices of Gold Star  
21 Families are not forgotten. The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans  
22 Memorial in Holmdel, New Jersey is home to the State’s Gold Star  
23 Families Monument and the host of an annual POW/MIA Gold Star  
24 Mothers Recognition Ceremony. Elsewhere, our municipalities  
25 take time to remember service members by erecting monuments and  
26 holding ceremonies honoring the memory of the fallen.

27       Americans will never forget the sacrifices Gold Star Fathers have  
28 made to ensure their peace and security. Although the debt this  
29 nation owes to them can never be repaid, we will continue to show  
30 our gratitude and support as they cope with unthinkable tragedy.  
31 These parents are among the best our nation has to offer as they  
32 have raised children who willingly risked their lives for a cause  
33 greater than themselves. For these reasons, the State believes it is  
34 proper to recognize this extraordinary group of fathers by  
35 dedicating a day in their honor.