

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 99

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblyman RYAN E. PETERS

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Space

SYNOPSIS

Designates November 7 of each year as “Remembering Victims of Communism Day” in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/9/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating November 7 of each year as
2 “Remembering Victims of Communism Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, On November 7, 1917, the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia
5 overthrew the Provisional Government that had been put in place
6 following the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II and instituted the
7 world’s first communist governing body; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Based on the economic philosophies of Karl Marx,
9 communism has proven incompatible with and brutally suppressed
10 the ideals of liberty, prosperity, and dignity of human life and has
11 given rise to such infamous totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin,
12 Mao Tse-Tung, Pol Pot, and Fidel Castro; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The start of communism as a governing political doctrine
14 has led to immeasurable suffering and displacement of individuals
15 through conquests, revolutions, civil wars, purges, wars by proxy,
16 and other violent means; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Soviet communism spread instability and oppression
18 throughout Europe for most of the 20th Century through false
19 promises of equality and liberation; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Atrocities such as the Red Terror, mass famine, gulags,
21 political persecution and exiles, and state violence against its
22 citizens defined the U.S.S.R. before the fall of the Berlin Wall and
23 eventual collapse of the Eastern Bloc; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The People’s Republic of China instituted massive,
25 country-wide programs that led to the deaths of tens of millions of
26 people including the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural
27 Revolution; and
28 **WHEREAS**, The Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, under the direction of Pol
29 Pot, committed mass genocide through ethnic cleansing in the
30 notorious Killing Fields of Cambodia; and
31 **WHEREAS**, The authoritarian government in Cuba, established by the
32 Castro family, has repressed democratic values, placed severe
33 restrictions on individual freedoms, and criminalized all forms of
34 dissent; and
35 **WHEREAS**, North Korea has isolated its citizens from the world, and
36 its policies have led to famine and crippling poverty across the
37 country; and
38 **WHEREAS**, There are other countless victims of communism’s
39 oppressive rule throughout the world who were persecuted as
40 political prisoners for speaking out against these regimes, and
41 others who were killed in genocidal state-sponsored purges of
42 undesirable groups; and
43 **WHEREAS**, It is appropriate and proper that we remember those who
44 opposed or fell victim to these brutal regimes and sacrificed their
45 lives; now, therefore,
46
47 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
48 *State of New Jersey:*

1 1. November 7 of each year is recognized as “Remembering
2 Victims of Communism Day” in the State of New Jersey.

2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a proclamation recognizing “Remembering Victims of Communism Day” and to call upon public officials, private organizations, and all citizens of this State to observe this day each year with appropriate events and activities.

10 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

15 This joint resolution designates November 7 of each year as
16 “Remembering Victims of Communism Day” in New Jersey.

The rise of communism in the early 20th Century has directly led to some of the most undemocratic and inhuman political systems in modern history. The formation of communist governments has often resulted in grinding poverty, oppression, and unconscionable human rights abuses. Genocide in Cambodia, the Great Famine in China, and political censorship in the Soviet Union and North Korea are hallmarks of communist regimes.

24 This joint resolution honors the memory of victims of
25 communism so that as time passes, these atrocities do not slip from
26 our collective memory. It is only through diligence and somber
27 reflection that Americans can learn the lessons of the past and strive
28 towards a better future. There are still over one and a half billion
29 people struggling under the yoke of communism who are living
30 without basic freedoms and in fear for their lives.

The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a proclamation recognizing “Remembering Victims of Communism Day” and call upon public officials, private organizations, and all citizens of this State to observe this day each year with appropriate events and activities.