

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 156**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 15, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Weinberg

SYNOPSIS

Commemorates 125th anniversary of Jewish War Veterans of United States of America.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2021)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** commemorating the 125th
2 anniversary of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of
3 America.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, On March 15, 1896, 63 Civil War veterans gathered inside
6 an opera house in New York City with the goal of combatting anti-
7 Semitism, and left having created the Hebrew Union Veterans
8 Association, now known as the Jewish War Veterans of the United
9 States of America (JWV); and
10 **WHEREAS**, The JWV is the oldest continually active veterans
11 organization in the country, and has spent the last 125 years
12 advocating for Jewish soldiers, supporting the United States in its
13 wartime efforts, fighting for racial, religious, and gender
14 protections, providing veterans services, and attaining numerous
15 other notable achievements; and
16 **WHEREAS**, The early efforts of the JWV included advocating for the
17 rights of Jewish military members and a successful appeal to
18 President Taft in 1913 after soldiers were denied leave for Yom
19 Kippur, and fighting for legislation to ensure that the graves of
20 Jewish service members who died in World War I in France were
21 marked with a Star of David; and
22 **WHEREAS**, After Adolph Hitler assumed the role of Chancellor of
23 Germany in 1933, the JWV became the first organization to launch
24 the boycott of German goods in the United States, and lead a march
25 of over 4,000 veterans on City Hall in New York City which
26 commenced with New York City Mayor John P. O'Brien publicly
27 endorsing the boycott; and
28 **WHEREAS**, During World War II, the JWV created the Emergency
29 Program for Victory which called for a comprehensive civilian
30 program to support the war effort and included several fundraising
31 drives that allowed the JWV to purchase six fighter planes, 25
32 ambulances, and several field kitchens for the United States
33 military; and
34 **WHEREAS**, The JWV was one of the first organizations to support the
35 American Legion's efforts to pass the "Servicemen's Readjustment
36 Act of 1944", more commonly known as the first GI Bill, and
37 pushed for strong racial and religious protections while lobbying for
38 the legislation; and
39 **WHEREAS**, During the Korean War, the JWV aimed to mitigate the
40 national blood shortage, and, in coordination with the American
41 Red Cross, sponsored National Baseball Blood Month in 1952
42 which saw blood drives in ballparks in 53 cities and lead to the
43 JWV receiving credit for the first 100 pints of blood delivered in
44 Korea; and
45 **WHEREAS**, In 1955, the JWV established the Shrine to Jewish War
46 Dead which received a Congressional Charter from President
47 Eisenhower and was later renamed the American Museum of
48 American Jewish Military History; and

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44 This resolution commemorates the 125th anniversary of the
45 Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV). The
46 JWV was founded on March 15, 1896 when 63 Jewish Civil War
47 veterans gathered in New York City with the goal of combatting

1 anti-Semitism. The result was the creation of the Hebrew Union
2 Veterans Association, now known as the JWV.

3 The JWV is the oldest continually active veterans' organization
4 in the country, and has played prominent roles in the wartime
5 efforts of the United States of America during the past 125 years.
6 In addition to providing wartime support to the country, the JWV
7 advocates for the rights of Jewish military members and has a
8 history of achievements including lobbying successfully in 1913 for
9 service leave for Yom Kippur and supporting legislation to ensure
10 that the graves of service members who died in World War I in
11 France were marked with a Star of David.

12 New Jersey is proudly home to 20 Jewish War Veterans posts:
13 Augenblick-Marcus Post 669; Bayonne Post 18; Clearbrook Post
14 395; Dan Michelson-Livingston Post 740; David Blick Post 63;
15 Essex-Preiskel-Miller-Glassberg Post 47; Furer-Barag-Wolf Post
16 126; Jersey Shore Post 125; Kaufman Harris Cone Wayne Post 695;
17 Lt. Garr-Greenstein-Friedenberg Post 39; Lt. James I. Platt Post
18 651; Lt. Seth Dvorin Post 972; Memorial Post 601; Monroe
19 Township Post 609; N. Hudson-J. George Fredman Post 76; Ocean
20 County Post 178; Oglensky Jackson Post 359; Sanford L. Kahn Post
21 538; Sgt. Sheldon Sheinfine Post 311; and Spc. Mark Seiden-Ben
22 Kaufman Post 444.

23 The JWV continues to offer services to veterans and members of
24 the military, and offers a number of programs, as well as providing
25 grant funding through their Jewish War Veterans of the USA
26 Foundation.