

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 113

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 19, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Designates March 1 of each year as “COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating March 1 of each year as
2 “COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The first day in March would be an appropriate day to be
5 recognized as “COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day;”
6 and
7 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2), a novel coronavirus, is a
8 deadly illness caused by a virus that can transmit from person to
9 person; and
10 **WHEREAS**, In 2020, COVID-19 began to spread throughout the world,
11 creating a global pandemic that has had a catastrophic impact on
12 human life, our communities, and our economy; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Beginning in March 2020, communities in every state
14 experienced increased loss of life, and families lost fathers,
15 mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, and neighbors to the
16 virus; and
17 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey became an early epicenter of the COVID-19
18 pandemic in the United States, peaking at over 8,200
19 hospitalizations on April 14, 2020; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Many across the United States were and continue to be
21 personally impacted by COVID-19, including mourning their loved
22 ones and neighbors or suffering from the unknown long-term health
23 implications of the virus; and
24 **WHEREAS**, By the end of February 2021, there were more than
25 28,065,000 known cases of the virus in the United States, and more
26 than 500,000 people tragically lost their lives; and
27 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, the State had over 700,000 known cases of
28 the virus and suffered over 20,000 confirmed deaths by the end of
29 February 2021; and
30 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on low-
31 income communities and communities of color with higher rates of
32 infection and death, exacerbating inequities already prevalent in our
33 systems that we must address as a nation; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Public servants, frontline and essential workers, and health
35 care professionals took selfless actions to protect their neighbors
36 and communities, support struggling local economies, and find
37 innovative ways to provide services; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Local, state, tribal, and federal government entities
39 provided critical support to businesses, communities, and
40 Americans in need; and
41 **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on
42 New Jersey, the United States, and countries around the world; and
43 **WHEREAS**, Each life lost to COVID-19, each inequity and broken
44 system brought to light, and each sacrifice made shall never be
45 forgotten; and
46 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that this State memorializes the lives
47 lost to the COVID-19 virus, recognizes the suffering of those who
48 contracted the COVID-19 virus and survived but carry with them

1 the unknown health side effects, and expresses support for the
2 designation of a “COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial
3 Day;” now, therefore,

4

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
6 *State of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. March 1 of each year shall be designated as “COVID-19
9 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day” in the State of New Jersey in
10 order to memorialize the lives lost to the COVID-19 virus and
11 recognize the suffering of those who contracted the COVID-19
12 virus and survived but carry with them the unknown health side
13 effects.

14

15 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a
16 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of New
17 Jersey to observe the day with appropriate activities and programs.

18

19 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

20

21

22

STATEMENT

23

24 This resolution designates March 1 of each year as “COVID-19
25 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day” in the State of New Jersey in
26 order to memorialize the lives lost to the COVID-19 virus and
27 recognize the suffering of those who contracted the COVID-19
28 virus and survived but carry with them the unknown health side
29 effects.

30

31 This joint resolution respectfully requests the Governor to issue a
32 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of New
Jersey to observe the day with appropriate activities and programs.