

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 58

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Designates month of April of each year as “Military Child Appreciation Month” in NJ; designates last full week of April of each year as “Military Child Appreciation Week” in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** Designating the month of April of each year
2 as “Military Child Appreciation Month” in New Jersey and
3 designating the last full week of April of each year as “Military
4 Child Appreciation Week” in New Jersey.
5
6 **WHEREAS**, According to the Military Child Education Coalition, there
7 are approximately two million United States military children under
8 the age of eighteen, 1.1 million of whom are school-aged; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Many military children have known only war since
10 September 11, 2001, including some military children whose parent
11 made the ultimate sacrifice; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Military children often have to adapt their lives to the
13 requirements of their parent’s military obligations, and shoulder
14 responsibilities beyond their years and burdens outside of their
15 control; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Military children face an average of six to nine relocations
17 and school transitions during their school years, creating
18 disruptions due to separation from family and friends, as well as the
19 necessity of adjusting to new schools and environments; and
20 **WHEREAS**, The average military family moves three times more often
21 than their civilian counterpart, and those moves are often to areas
22 not chosen by the military family; and
23 **WHEREAS**, In 1986, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger
24 established the month of April as the United States Department of
25 Defense’s “Month of the Military Child” in an effort to increase
26 public knowledge and understanding of the issues surrounding
27 children who have a parent in the military; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Since 1986, there have been an increasing number of
29 awareness campaigns aimed at recognizing the needs of military
30 children in all areas, such as coping with the deployment of a parent
31 to war zones; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Every April, the United States military services and
33 communities around the world recognize military children for their
34 daily sacrifices and the challenges they must overcome; and
35 **WHEREAS**, In 2009, New Jersey joined the Interstate Compact on
36 Educational Opportunity for Military Children to remove barriers to
37 educational success imposed on the children of military families
38 due to the frequent moves and deployment of a parent; and
39 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey will further its commitment to the brave men
40 and women who serve their country and State by supporting and
41 recognizing these children and young American heroes, and by
42 pledging its gratitude for their sacrifices; now, therefore,
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44 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
45 *State of New Jersey:*
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47 1. In order to recognize the sacrifice and bravery of military

1 children and to encourage the State of New Jersey's continued
2 commitment and support for military children living in this State:

3 a. The month of April of each year is designated as "Military
4 Child Appreciation Month" in New Jersey.

5 b. The last full week of April of each year is designated as
6 "Military Child Appreciation Week" in New Jersey.

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8 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
9 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of the
10 State to observe "Military Child Appreciation Month" and "Military
11 Child Appreciation Week" with appropriate activities and programs.

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13 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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18 This resolution designates the month of April of each year as
19 "Military Appreciation Month" and the last full week of April of
20 each year as "Military Appreciation Week" in New Jersey.

21 In 1986, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger established the
22 month of April as the "Month of the Military Child." Secretary
23 Weinberger wanted to highlight the trials and tribulations that
24 military children endure from having a parent who serves in the
25 Armed Forces. Military families move three times more often than
26 civilian families and military children are often asked to shoulder
27 responsibilities and burdens well beyond their years.

28 Since 1986, the Department of Defense has commemorated April
29 as the "Month of the Military Child," and implemented various
30 programs to aid military children and families. There has also been
31 an increasing number of awareness campaigns aimed at recognizing
32 the needs of military children. It is therefore proper and fitting for
33 the State of New Jersey to commemorate military children by
34 designating the month of April of each year as "Military Child
35 Appreciation Month" and the last full week of April of each year as
36 "Military Child Appreciation Week" in New Jersey.