

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 163

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 18, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ALEX SAUICKIE

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Designates March 15 of each year as Jewish War Veterans Day in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating March 15 of each year as Jewish
2 War Veterans Day in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Jewish Americans have long served their country in the
5 military; and
6 **WHEREAS**, During World War II, 550,000 Jewish men and women
7 served in all branches of the United States Armed Forces; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Although they faced antisemitism both at home and in
9 service, Jewish American military personnel were not segregated,
10 and some held senior rank; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Many proud Jewish Americans have served and continue to
12 serve in the United States Armed Forces, including Anna M.
13 Rosenberg whose experiences with military affairs during World
14 War II propelled her into a position as the first woman to serve as
15 Assistant Secretary of Defense; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, also
17 known as Jewish War Veterans of the USA, is an organization that
18 traces its history back to March 15, 1896 when 63 Civil War veterans
19 gathered for the first meeting of the Hebrew Union Veterans
20 Association, the group’s original name, in New York City; and
21 **WHEREAS**, That meeting was called to counter false claims of a lack of
22 service by Jewish Americans in the Civil War; and
23 **WHEREAS**, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA is the longest
24 continuously serving veterans group in the United States, with 128
25 years of service as of March 15, 2024; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Jewish War Veterans of the USA received its congressional
27 charter in 1984; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Jewish War Veterans of the USA has a long-standing history
29 with the Four Chaplains Foundation beginning in the early 1950’s,
30 when Jewish war veterans from World Wars I and II developed the
31 idea to fight discrimination by using the unity and loyalty of "The
32 Immortals" during the sinking of the USAT Dorchester in 1943 to
33 create an organization of “Unity Without Uniformity”, which
34 became that foundation; and
35 **WHEREAS**, “The Immortals” were four chaplains of different religions
36 aboard the Dorchester who distributed life vests to troops and others
37 on the ship and, when there were no more left, selflessly gave theirs
38 to others and were seen going down with the ship, arms linked and
39 sending prayers; and
40 **WHEREAS**, The Jewish War Veterans, Department of New Jersey, is at
41 the forefront of efforts to educate and inform federal and State
42 legislators on issues of particular concern to all veterans including
43 funding, services, and benefits; and
44 **WHEREAS**, The Jewish War Veterans, Department of New Jersey,
45 makes frequent visits to residents of the three State veteran memorial
46 homes and to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, and is
47 also involved in supporting local veterans’ activities such as parades,
48 memorial events, picnics, and flag retirement services; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, Jewish War Veterans of the USA continues to live up to the
2 mission to preserve the Jewish American military legacy to protect
3 veteran rights, to spread Americanism, to fight antisemitism and to
4 promote community; and

5 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper to recognize Jewish war
6 veterans and their contributions on the battlefields and to the cause
7 of freedom and justice; now, therefore,

8
9 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
10 *of New Jersey:*

11
12 1. March 15 of each year is designated as “Jewish War Veterans
13 Day” in New Jersey.

14
15 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
16 proclamation calling upon public officials, private organizations, and
17 all citizens of this State to observe “Jewish War Veterans Day” with
18 appropriate events and activities.

19
20 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

21

22

23 STATEMENT

24

25 Jewish men and women serve in the United States Armed Forces.
26 They have faced antisemitism both at home and in service, yet
27 proudly served, and fought in the United States military.

28 Jewish War Veterans of the USA traces its history back to March
29 15, 1896 when 63 Civil War veterans gathered for the first meeting
30 of the Hebrew Union Veterans Association, the group’s original
31 name, in New York City. That meeting was called to counter false
32 claims of a lack of service by Jewish Americans in the Civil War.

33 Jewish War Veterans of the USA is the longest continuously
34 serving veterans group in the United States, with 128 years of service
35 as of March 15, 2024. It received its congressional charter in 1984.

36 The Jewish War Veterans, Department of New Jersey, is at the
37 forefront of efforts to educate and inform federal and State legislators
38 on issues of particular concern to all veterans including funding,
39 services, and benefits. They are also involved in support of local
40 veterans’ activities such as parades, memorial events, picnics, and
41 flag retirement services.

42 Jewish war veterans continue to live up to the mission to preserve
43 the Jewish-American military legacy to protect veteran rights, to
44 spread Americanism, and to promote community. It is fitting and
45 proper to recognize the Jewish war veterans and their contributions
46 on the battlefields and to the cause of freedom and justice for all
47 veterans.