

## CHAPTER 35

**AN ACT** designating March 16 as “Liberty Day” in the State of New Jersey, memorializing the Congress of the United States to pass legislation designating “Liberty Day” annually and supplementing Title 36 of the Revised Statutes.

**WHEREAS**, As Americans, we enjoy rights and liberties rooted in the cherished documents that gave birth to our nation, those being the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, with its Bill of Rights; and

**WHEREAS**, The patriot James Madison, fourth President of the United States, was the primary author of the Virginia Plan, the model and the basis for the United States Constitution that emerged from the Constitutional Convention of 1787, which established our new form of government replacing the Articles of Confederation; and

**WHEREAS**, James Madison kept detailed accounts of the debates and compromises that were an integral part of that Convention, which records were published only after the death of all delegates to the Convention; and

**WHEREAS**, James Madison wrote many of the newspaper articles now known as the Federalist Papers, outlining why States should endorse the new Constitution and enduring as some of the best arguments for our form of government; and

**WHEREAS**, James Madison introduced the Bill of Rights into the First Congress of the United States, whereupon the first ten amendments to the Constitution were adopted; and

**WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting that the 16th day of March, the birthday of the distinguished founding father, James Madison, be designated as “Liberty Day,” a celebration of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, It is also fitting and proper for this Legislature and the Governor to memorialize Congress to pass legislation designating “Liberty Day” annually; now therefore,

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.36:2-76 "Liberty Day," March 16; designated.

1. March 16 is designated as “Liberty Day” throughout the State of New Jersey and all citizens are urged to participate in “Liberty Day” observance.

C.36:2-77 Observance of "Liberty Day."

2. The Governor shall issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe March 16th of each year with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

3. The Congress of the United States is respectfully memorialized to pass legislation designating “Liberty Day” annually as a remembrance of both the freedom that Americans were given in the Declaration of Independence and the extraordinary rights and liberties that Americans were given in their Constitution.

4. Duly authenticated copies of this act, signed by the Governor of the State of New Jersey, shall be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Congress of the United States and each member of New Jersey’s Congressional delegation.

5. This act shall take effect immediately and sections 3 and 4 shall expire upon the transmission of copies pursuant to section 4.

Approved April 4, 2003.