

## CHAPTER 18

AN ACT designating May of each year as “Military Appreciation Month” in New Jersey.

**WHEREAS**, The freedom, peace, and security that citizens of the United States enjoy today are the direct results of the sacrifices and the continued vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces who selflessly serve to protect our nation, together with the sacrifices of the family members who support them; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress designated May “National Military Appreciation Month” in 1999 to promote national awareness of the sacrifices that members of the United States Armed Forces have made in the past and continue to make every day in order to support the United States Constitution and to protect and preserve the freedoms and liberties that enrich this nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Currently more than 7,000 active duty military personnel call the State of New Jersey their home, and more than 400,000 military veterans have chosen to make our State their home after military service; and

**WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Army National Guard and the New Jersey Air National Guard serve dual roles, protecting New Jerseyans from domestic threats and natural disasters and also serving in overseas military and humanitarian missions when called to federal active duty; and

**WHEREAS**, This State is home to many military installations which perform major functions in the defense of the United States and which bring resources of personnel and equipment to any mission assigned to the Armed Forces of the United States, including Joint Base-McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Naval Weapon Station-Earle, Picatinny Arsenal, and numerous United States Coast Guard duty stations; and

**WHEREAS**, It is appropriate to emphasize the importance of the service by the members of United States Armed Forces, past and present, to all persons in the United States, and to underscore the vital support and encouragement that their families have made in securing and protecting the freedoms that citizens of this State and the nation enjoy today; and

**WHEREAS**, The observance of events during the month of May recognizing and honoring the contributions and sacrifices of the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, both past and present, and their families is a tangible and highly effective way to sustain morale and improve the quality of life in New Jersey for these valiant individuals; now, therefore,

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

C.36:2-234 “Military Appreciation Month,” May; designated, annual observance.

1. a. The month of May of every year is hereby designated as “Military Appreciation Month” in New Jersey. All citizens and residents of this State are encouraged to recognize, honor, and show appreciation to all members of the United States Armed Forces, past and present, as well as their families.

b. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation declaring May of every year as “Military Appreciation Month” in New Jersey and, with the Legislature, call upon the citizens of this State to recognize this month with appropriate activities, programs, and events.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved July 10, 2014.