

## CHAPTER 188

**AN ACT** designating the Killed in Action flag as an official State flag and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

**WHEREAS**, Since our nation's founding, brave men and women have given their lives for this country through their service in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, This State supports its many resident servicemembers and veterans and is grateful for their sacrifices, especially for the sacrifice of those who paid the ultimate price with their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, The Killed in Action (K.I.A.) flag seeks to honor those who have fallen in action and ensure that their service is never forgotten; and

**WHEREAS**, It is believed that, in 1993, a Vietnam veteran, who wished to remain anonymous, visited the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., and realized there was no flag in existence at that time that he could leave to honor this nation's fallen heroes; and

**WHEREAS**, The veteran decided to create a flag and assure the loved ones of fallen heroes that they would always be remembered; and

**WHEREAS**, The Killed in Action Honor Flag Program began in 2003 in recognition of those who were killed in combat while serving in the United States military and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, The K.I.A. flag is a red flag which depicts the silhouette of a helmet on top of a firearm next to a servicemember, where the color red represents the blood shed by members of the United States Armed Forces and Special Services who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country both at home and abroad; and

**WHEREAS**, It is, therefore, altogether fitting and proper that this State adopt this flag as an official State flag to honor and memorialize all members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were killed in action or died of wounds resulting from injuries received in action; now, therefore,

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

C.52:3-14 Killed in Action flag designated an official State flag.

1. a. The Killed in Action (K.I.A.) flag is designated an official State flag for recognizing members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were killed in action, or died of wounds resulting from injuries received in action, in any war or conflict in which the United States has been involved. The K.I.A. flag is a red flag which depicts the silhouette of a helmet on top of a firearm next to a servicemember.

b. The flag shall be displayed during normal business hours at the State House in Trenton, the principal municipal building in each municipality, and the principal county building in each county seat.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved August 7, 2017.