

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 18

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates May 27 of each year as “Richard Rescorla Day.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee with technical review.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating May 27 of each year as “Richard  
2 Rescorla Day” in New Jersey.  
3

4 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Rick Rescorla, born as Cyril Richard Rescorla on  
5 May 27, 1939 in the Town of Hayle in Cornwall, England, United  
6 Kingdom, was a United States Army officer and decorated Vietnam  
7 veteran; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Prior to his military service in the United States, Rick  
9 conducted intelligence operations with the British Army while  
10 stationed in Cyprus and later became an inspector with the Northern  
11 Rhodesian Police; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Afterwards, Rick returned to London to serve in Scotland  
13 Yard’s elite “flying squad” of detectives before enlisting with the  
14 U.S. Army in 1963; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Rick Rescorla, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry  
16 Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, led his platoon during America’s  
17 first major battle of the Vietnam conflict, the Battle of Ia Drang;  
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, In the book “We Were Soldiers Once...and Young,” the  
20 commanding officer of the battle, Lieutenant General Harold G.  
21 Moore (Ret.), described Rick Rescorla as “the best platoon leader I  
22 ever saw”; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Rick Rescorla’s leadership and bravery in Vietnam earned  
24 him two Bronze Stars, a Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the  
25 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry; and

26 **WHEREAS**, The Battle of Ia Drang was not the last time this nation  
27 would require the service of Rick Rescorla; and

28 **WHEREAS**, On September 11, 2001, Rick Rescorla, a resident of  
29 Morristown, New Jersey, was serving as Vice President of Security  
30 for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter at their headquarters in the World  
31 Trade Center, where he regularly drilled the Morgan Stanley  
32 employees in disaster preparedness and response, especially  
33 evacuation; and

34 **WHEREAS**, After the North Tower was attacked on that fateful day,  
35 Rick Rescorla dismissed Port Authority announcements to remain  
36 in the building and led a massive evacuation of Morgan Stanley’s  
37 2,700-person workforce located in the South Tower; and

38 **WHEREAS**, With bullhorn in hand, Rick calmly directed people down  
39 the stairwell, ultimately saving the lives of all but six employees,  
40 with many of the survivors recalling him singing Cornish folk  
41 songs during the evacuation, assuring them, “Today is a day to be  
42 proud to be an American. Tomorrow, the world will be looking at  
43 you!”; and

44 **WHEREAS**, After the last of the employees had evacuated the South  
45 Tower, Rick Rescorla returned to the building, despite fears that the  
46 towers would fall, to make a final sweep to ensure everyone had  
47 escaped safely; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, Rick Rescorla was last seen alive accompanying firemen  
2 up the stairwell on the tenth floor, shortly before the South Tower  
3 collapsed, moving toward danger much in the same way he had  
4 done 36 years prior at the Battle of Ia Drang; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Rick Rescorla perished in the South Tower and is survived  
6 by his wife Susan, his daughter Kim, and his son Trevor; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Although Rick Rescorla's remains were never found, the  
8 brave military officer is forever memorialized at the Raptor Trust  
9 Bird Rehabilitation Center in Long Hill, New Jersey where his  
10 epitaph is enshrined at the bald eagle sanctuary that served as a  
11 place of solace for him and his wife; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Additional public memorials and accolades include an  
13 engraving at the South Pool, on Panel S-46 at the National  
14 September 11 Memorial and Museum, a statue of Rick on  
15 permanent display at the National Infantry Museum at Fort  
16 Benning, Georgia, along with a dedicated portion of the museum's  
17 forthcoming exhibit covering the Global War on Terror, the Rick  
18 Rescorla National Award for Resilience created by the Department  
19 of Homeland Security, a passenger train operated by Great Western  
20 Railways in the United Kingdom commissioned in honor of Rick, a  
21 plaque honoring Rick at Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial,  
22 a 2009 induction into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame, a stone  
23 monument in Cornwall, England, and the Department of Homeland  
24 Security's highest honor the Distinguished Public Service Medal,  
25 awarded posthumously; and

26 **WHEREAS**, In 2019, President Donald J. Trump presented the  
27 Presidential Citizens Medal, the second-highest civilian award,  
28 posthumously to the late Rick Rescorla, which was accepted on his  
29 behalf by his widow Susan Rescorla and his son Trevor; and

30 **WHEREAS**, By sharing Rick's story throughout the world, Susan  
31 Rescorla continues to immortalize the heroes, first responders, and  
32 victims of 9/11/2001, as well as Vietnam Veterans; and

33 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for the State of New Jersey to  
34 designate May 27 of each year, Rick Rescorla's birthday, as "Rick  
35 Rescorla Day" to honor a decorated Vietnam veteran who made a  
36 valiant and selfless sacrifice on one of our nation's darkest days;  
37 now, therefore,  
38

39 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
40 *State of New Jersey:*

41  
42 1. May 27 of each year shall be designated as "Richard  
43 Rescorla Day" to honor the life and commitment to service of  
44 Richard Rescorla who valiantly and unselfishly served the United  
45 States with honor during the Vietnam conflict and on September 11,  
46 2001.

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1       2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a  
2 proclamation each year calling upon public officials and the citizens  
3 of this State to observe “Richard Rescorla Day” with appropriate  
4 activities and programs.

5

6       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.