

## **Freeholders Approve Official Display Of KIA Flag That Honors All Service Members Killed In Action**

The Hunterdon County Freeholder Board, at its March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, approved the display of the official Killed in Action Flag (KIA) at the County Justice Complex and in front of the Historic Courthouse in Flemington, in compliance with state law.

Freeholder John W. King, long active with veteran and military service issues as a Freeholder, said at the meeting, "The KIA flag is specifically designed to remember and honor those that have been killed in action in the defense of our nation's freedom. And it is required by state law to be flown at state, county, and municipal buildings offices during normal business hours."

Last year the legislature and governor enacted in law, PL 2017, chapter 188, which states 'The Killed in Action flag is designated an official State flag for recognizing members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were killed in action in any war or conflict in which the United States has been involved.'

The law also states that the flag should be displayed at the principal building in each municipality and county.

Freeholder King further suggested that, "when the KIA flags are received here in Hunterdon County, with the agreement of the Board, the flag should be flown on the flag poles in front of the Historic Courthouse and at the Justice Complex, demonstrating that Hunterdon County remembers our nation's fallen heroes. I thank the county Purchasing Director, Ray Rule, for bringing this matter to our attention."

The KIA flag was developed by an anonymous Veteran in 1993 and its red color a symbol of the blood shed by our Armed Forces and Special Services who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. The flag is dedicated to represent the sorrow and respect our nation owes those who paid the ultimate price. A portion of all proceeds for the KIA flags supports the families and functions held by those families of Veterans who have been killed in action.