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AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION celebrating the role New Jersey played in the American Revolution.

Celebrates role of New Jersey in American Revolution.

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Suggested allocation:

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AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION celebrating the role New Jersey played in the American Revolution.

WHEREAS, New Jersey played an instrumental role in the fight for freedom throughout the course of the American Revolution, even before the colonies formally declared their Independence from Great Britain; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the Revolution, it was not only the Continental Army that endured conflict in New Jersey, but also the State's militia, the newly formed State Government, and the people of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, It was because of the persistence and perseverance of this collective that British Loyalists were rooted out and the British Redcoats were unable to establish a lasting foothold in the State; and

WHEREAS, The new, democratically elected State Government, not the King, maintained all civilian authority over the State's people, thereby creating a stable base in which the Continental Army could operate; and

WHEREAS, Throughout 1774, in early acts of defiance to British tyranny, New Jerseyans held three distinct tea parties in protest of the Tea Act at Princeton, Sandy Hook, and Greenwich; and

WHEREAS, Following the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the first public reading of the document outside of Philadelphia was proudly held in Trenton on July 8, 1776, as the State embraced the movement for Independence; and

WHEREAS, As war became inevitable, New Jersey became central to the spy network of both soldiers and civilians established by General Washington, with intelligence being collected and shared along pathways between New York and Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, In late 1776, General George Washington retreated across New Jersey, from New York to Princeton, while Alexander Hamilton provided covering artillery fire, earning Hamilton the respect and recognition of Washington for the very first time; and

WHEREAS, After retreating and reorganizing in Pennsylvania, General Washington led the now-famous crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas Day 1776, delivering a resounding defeat to Hessian troops camped for the winter at Trenton and shifting momentum to the patriot cause; and

WHEREAS, Patriot troops rode this momentum as they pushed onwards to Princeton, recapturing the town in what would become a turning point of the war; and

WHEREAS, In June 1778, New Jersey was the site of the longest single day of fighting in the war as the Continental Army deployed new training, weapons, and tactics at the Battle of Monmouth, demonstrating an ability to match the British forces in the field and marking the end of the British campaign for Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Such success at the Battle of Monmouth led General Washington to call for the first federally recognized Independence Day, celebrated with canon fire and a musket salute on the banks of

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the Raritan River, near present day New Brunswick, on July 4, 1778; and

WHEREAS, The events at Trenton, Princeton, and Monmouth, while critical, only represent three of the more than 600 battles and skirmishes fought in New Jersey in the course of the Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire conflict, Morristown earned informal status as the military capital of the Revolution, serving as the winter campground for General Washington and the Continental Army, including during the coldest days of a bitter winter in 1779 and 1780; and

WHEREAS, The strategic location of Morristown afforded the Continental Army natural fortifications, supplies, and a vantage point from which to observe British troop movements around New York City; and

WHEREAS, It was from Morristown that General Washington led the long march to Yorktown, Virginia, concealed by the natural landscape of New Jersey's interior, where Patriot and French troops surrounded the British, bringing the war for American Independence to a near close in 1781; and

WHEREAS, This history demonstrates that New Jersey, its resources, and its brave and enterprising people were integral to the success of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, As American Independence enters its 250th year and people across the country and State begin to reflect on the pivotal moments and events of that time, through public celebrations, educational programs, and initiatives such as Revolution New Jersey, it is fitting and proper for the Legislature to recognize the rich history of this State in advancing the cause of freedom in the face of tyranny; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. This House proudly recognizes and celebrates the role that New Jersey and its people played in the American Revolution.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Governor and to the New Jersey Historical Commission.

STATEMENT

This Assembly resolution celebrates the role that the State of New Jersey played in the American Revolution.

New Jersey played an instrumental role in the fight for freedom throughout the course of the American Revolution, even before the colonies formally declared their Independence from Great Britain.

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Throughout the Revolution, it was not only the Continental Army that endured conflict in New Jersey, but also the State's militia, the newly formed State Government, and the people of New Jersey. It was because of the persistence and perseverance of this collective that British Loyalists were rooted out and the British Redcoats were unable to establish a lasting foothold in the State. The new, democratically elected State Government, not the King, maintained all civilian authority over the State's people, thereby creating a stable base in which the Continental Army could operate.

Throughout 1774, in an early act of defiance to British tyranny, New Jerseyans held three distinct tea parties in protest of the Tea Act at Princeton, Sandy Hook, and Greenwich.

Following the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the first public reading of the document outside of Philadelphia was proudly held in Trenton on July 8, 1776, as the State embraced the movement for Independence.

As war became inevitable, New Jersey became central to the spy network of both soldiers and civilians established by General Washington, with intelligence being collected and shared along pathways between New York and Philadelphia.

In late 1776, General George Washington retreated across New Jersey, from New York to Princeton, while Alexander Hamilton provided covering artillery fire, earning Hamilton the respect and recognition of Washington for the very first time. After retreating and reorganizing in Pennsylvania, General Washington led the now-famous crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas Day 1776, delivering a resounding defeat to Hessian troops camped for the winter at Trenton and shifting momentum to the patriot cause. Patriot troops continued this momentum as they pushed onwards to Princeton, recapturing the town in what would become a turning point of the war.

In 1778, New Jersey was the site of the longest single day of fighting in the war as the Continental Army deployed new training, weapons, and tactics at the Battle of Monmouth, demonstrating an ability to match the British forces in the field and marking the end of the British campaign for Philadelphia. Success at the Battle of Monmouth led General Washington to call for the first federally recognized Independence Day, celebrated with canon fire and a musket salute on the banks of the Raritan River on July 4, 1778.

While these events at Trenton, Princeton, and Monmouth were critical, they only represent three of the more than 600 battles and skirmishes fought in New Jersey in the course of the Revolution.

Throughout the entire conflict, Morristown earned informal status as the military capital of the Revolution, serving as the winter campground for General Washington and the Continental Army. The strategic location of Morristown afforded the Continental Army natural fortifications, supplies, and a vantage point from which to observe British troop movements around New York City. It was from Morristown that General Washington led the long march to

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Yorktown, Virginia, concealed by the natural landscape of New Jersey's interior, where Patriot and French troops surrounded the British, bringing the war for American Independence to a near close in 1781.

This history demonstrates that New Jersey, its resources, and its people were integral to the success of the American Revolution. As American Independence enters its 250th year and people across the country and State begin to reflect on the pivotal moments and events of that time, through public celebrations, educational programs, and initiatives such as Revolution New Jersey , it is fitting and proper for the Legislature to recognize the rich history of this State in advancing the cause of freedom in the face of tyranny.

Celebrates role of New Jersey in American Revolution.

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