

18A:73-20.2

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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NJSA: 18A:73-20.2

(Medals of Honor
& memorabilia--
require State
Museum to
collect)

LAWS OF: 1989

CHAPTER: 334

Bill No: A4161

Sponsor(s): Shinn & others

Date Introduced: January 26, 1989

Committee: Assembly: Veterans Affairs

Senate: State Government

Amended during passage: Yes Amendments denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: Assembly: June 19, 1989 Re-enacted 1-8-90

Senate: December 18, 1989 Re-enacted 1-8-90

Date of Approval: January 12, 1990

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly: Yes

Senate: Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: Yes

Message on signing: No

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

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P.L.1989, CHAPTER 334, *approved January 12, 1990*
1989 Assembly No. 4161 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT directing the New Jersey State Museum, in cooperation
2 with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, to
3 collect Medals of Honor and related memorabilia for display as
4 a permanent exhibit.

5

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

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. The Medal of Honor, instituted in 1861 for the Navy and in
10 1862 for the Army, is awarded by the Congress to members of the
11 United States Armed Forces for "conspicuous gallantry and
12 intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty,
13 in action involving actual conflict with an opposing armed force."

14 b. Since this great honor was established, only 3,412 such
15 medals have been awarded to deserving members of the armed
16 forces for extremely heroic acts which typically involve suffering
17 severe wounds or death, making this the highest decoration given
18 by the United States Government.

19 c. Eight men from New Jersey received this outstanding honor
20 for their conspicuous bravery in World War II, the Korean
21 Conflict or the Vietnam Conflict.

22 d. It is fitting and proper that this State honor these
23 exemplary men and keep alive for future generations of New
24 Jersey residents the story of their heroic bravery.

25 2. a. The New Jersey State Museum, in cooperation with the
26 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, shall develop and
27 implement a program to collect Medals of Honor and ¹[any]
28 appropriate¹ memorabilia related to the awarding of the medals
29 from those persons, or the relatives or friends of those persons,
30 who have been awarded the medal since its establishment and
31 who at one time resided or continue to reside in New Jersey.

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the
above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's
recommendations January 4, 1990.

1 b. The medals and memorabilia related to the awarding of the
2 medals shall be collected from the owners of those materials on a
3 voluntary basis.

4 c. The museum is directed to ¹[establish a permanent
5 collection of the medals and memorabilia related to the awarding
6 of the medals and to display those items as a permanent exhibit
7 at its facility in Trenton.] record, document and preserve the
8 collection and to make it accessible through a long-term
9 intrepretive exhibition which will include portions of the
10 collection shown on a rotating basis.¹

11 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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VETERANS

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New Jersey-History, Symbols, Holidays

16

17 Directs NJ State Museum, in cooperation with Department of
18 Military and Veterans' Affairs, to collect Medals of Honor and
19 related memorabilia for display at State Museum in Trenton.

1 c. The museum is directed to establish a permanent collection
of the medals and memorabilia related to the awarding of the
3 medals and to display those items as a permanent exhibit at its
facility in Trenton.

5 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

7

STATEMENT

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The purpose of this bill is to direct the New Jersey State
11 Museum, in cooperation with the Department of Military and
Veterans' Affairs, to develop and implement a program to
13 collect Medals of Honor and any memorabilia related to the
awarding of the medals from those persons, or the relatives or
15 friends of those persons, who have been awarded the medal since
its establishment and who at one time resided or continue to
17 reside in New Jersey.

The medals and memorabilia related to the awarding of the
19 medals shall be collected from the owners of those materials on a
voluntary basis.

21 The bill also directs the museum to establish a permanent
collection of these materials and to display them as a permanent
23 exhibit at the State Museum in Trenton.

25

VETERANS

27

New Jersey-History, Symbols, Holidays

29 Directs NJ State Museum, in cooperation with Department of
Military and Veterans' Affairs, to collect Medals of Honor and
31 related memorabilia for permanent display at State Museum in
Trenton.

ASSEMBLY VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4161

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 24, 1989

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The Assembly Veterans' Affairs and Defense Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 4161.

This bill directs the New Jersey State Museum, in cooperation with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, to develop and implement a program to collect Medals of Honor and any memorabilia related to the awarding of the medals from those persons, or the relatives or friends of those persons, who have been awarded the medal since its establishment and who at one time resided or continue to reside in New Jersey.

The medals and memorabilia related to the awarding of the medals would be collected from the owners of those materials on a voluntary basis.

The bill also directs the museum to establish a permanent collection of these materials and to display them as a permanent exhibit at the State Museum in Trenton.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, FEDERAL
AND INTERSTATE RELATIONS AND
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4161

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 1989

The Senate State Government, Federal and Interstate Relations and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4161.

This bill directs the New Jersey State Museum, in cooperation with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, to develop and implement a program to collect Medals of Honor and any memorabilia related to the awarding of the medals from those persons, or the relatives or friends of those persons, who have been awarded the medal since its establishment and who at one time resided or continue to reside in New Jersey.

The medals and memorabilia related to the awarding of the medals would be collected from the owners of those materials on a voluntary basis.

The bill also directs the museum to establish a permanent collection of these materials and to display them as a permanent exhibit at the State Museum in Trenton.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

January 4, 1990

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4161

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 4161 with my objections for reconsideration.

This bill directs the New Jersey State Museum, in cooperation with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, to implement a program to collect Medals of Honor, and any memorabilia relating to the awarding of the Medals, of those persons who have been awarded the Medal and who at one time resided or continue to reside in New Jersey. The Medals and memorabilia will be collected on a voluntary basis, and the collection of these Medals and memorabilia will be exhibited permanently at the Trenton State Museum.

While I applaud and support the creation of an exhibit at the State Museum in Trenton to recognize those brave and valiant citizens of New Jersey who were decorated with Medals of Honor, I believe that this bill needs amendments that will ensure the proper collection, handling and display of this exhibit.

First, I believe that the nature of the materials collected by the State Museum should be left to the discretion of the Museum. This will allow the Museum to use its expertise to determine whether it can properly care for and preserve the collection.

Secondly, although this bill establishes a permanent exhibit of these items, I have been advised that sound museum practices now discourage permanent exhibits. Permanent exhibitions are disfavored because they reduce the discretion of museums to adapt during periods of renovation, fiscal crisis and other extenuating circumstances, because the objects in these restricted collections cannot be loaned to sister institutions for major thematic exhibitions, and because objects of a fragile nature should not be permanently exposed to light and changing climate conditions, i.e., memorabilia in the paper and textile category. Consequently, I recommend that this bill's requirement that the Museum establish a permanent Medal of Honor exhibit be amended to provide that the Museum is to record, document and preserve the collection and make it accessible through a long-term interpretive exhibition that will include portions of the collection shown on a rotating basis.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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and preserve the collection and make it accessible through a long-term interpretive exhibition that will include portions of the collection shown on a rotating basis.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 4161 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 1, Section 2a., Line 27:

Delete "any" insert "appropriate"

Page 2, Section 2c., Line 1:

Delete "establish a permanent collection" insert "record, document and preserve the collection and to make it accessible through a long-term interpretive exhibition which will include portions of the collection shown on a rotating basis."

Page 2, Section 2c., Lines 2-4:

Delete in entirety

Respectfully,

/s/ Thomas H. Kean

GOVERNOR

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Ross A. Lewin

Acting Chief Counsel