

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 99

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Urges adoption of “Kindness All Around” symbol as National Symbol of Kindness.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

AR99 DANCER, MURPHY

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1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION urging the adoption of the “Kindness
2 All Around” symbol as the National Symbol of Kindness.

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4 WHEREAS, Studies show that performing acts of kindness yields
5 physical and psychological health benefits, such as a stronger
6 immune system, lower rates of depression, increased happiness, and
7 an overall sense of well-being; and

8 WHEREAS, Research studies also indicate that kindness is contagious,
9 meaning that people who experience kindness from others are in
10 turn more likely to behave altruistically; and

11 WHEREAS, There is a real need in our schools, our communities, and
12 our nation for a caring attitude and acts of kindness toward our
13 neighbors; and

14 WHEREAS, For millennia, humans have employed pictures and
15 symbols to communicate feelings and ideas, and there are clearly
16 identifiable symbols for the attributes of peace, love, and happiness
17 in contemporary culture; and

18 WHEREAS, Our culture lacks a widely-recognized symbol for the
19 characteristic of kindness; and

20 WHEREAS, The Transitional Kindergarten students of Tropical
21 Elementary School on Merritt Island, Florida have designed the
22 “Kindness All Around” symbol to raise awareness of the need for
23 kindness in daily life; and

24 WHEREAS, The “Kindness All Around” symbol consists of a heart
25 shape encircled by interconnected arrows, suggesting an infinite
26 cycle of kindness; and

27 WHEREAS, Over 5,000 people from all 50 states, the District of
28 Columbia, and Puerto Rico have petitioned their State Legislatures
29 and the United States Congress to declare the “Kindness All
30 Around” symbol as our National Symbol of Kindness; and

31 WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper, and in the public interest,
32 for this House to respectfully urge the U.S. Congress to adopt this
33 unique emblem as our National Symbol of Kindness; now,
34 therefore,

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

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39 1. This House respectfully urges the U.S. Congress to adopt the
40 “Kindness All Around” symbol as our National Symbol of
41 Kindness.

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43 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, as filed with the
44 Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General
45 Assembly to the President of the United States, the Majority Leader
46 of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of
47 Representatives, the Minority Leaders of both chambers of

1 Congress, each member of Congress elected from New Jersey, and
2 the principal of Tropical Elementary School, Merritt Island, Florida.

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STATEMENT

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7 This resolution requests the United States Congress to designate
8 the “Kindness All Around” symbol as the National Symbol of
9 Kindness.

10 Scientific research demonstrates that individuals who perform
11 acts of kindness toward others reap both physical and psychological
12 health benefits. Additional studies suggest that individuals who
13 have been on the receiving end of kind actions are more likely to
14 act altruistically toward other people.

15 Students in the Transitional Kindergarten class at Tropical
16 Elementary School on Merritt Island, Florida created the “Kindness
17 All Around” symbol as part of a classroom service learning
18 initiative called Together Kind. As part of this project, the students
19 designed four options for a symbol representing the trait of
20 kindness. The goal of this project was to create an easily-
21 recognizable symbol for kindness, much the same way
22 contemporary culture has symbols for love and peace. The class
23 utilized email and social media to ask the public to vote on the best
24 kindness symbol. Over one thousand respondents from 25 states and
25 two countries voted, with the “Kindness All Around” symbol
26 determined as the winner. The symbol, a heart shape encircled by
27 interconnected arrows, is the centerpiece of the students’ public
28 campaign to share the symbol and have communities and states
29 designate the “Kindness All Around” symbol as the official symbol
30 of kindness. Furthermore, over 5,000 people from all 50 states, the
31 District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have signed a petition urging
32 Congress to adopt the “Kindness All Around” symbol as the
33 National Symbol of Kindness.