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## **DIEGNAN / LAMPITT / BURZICHELLI/ CONNERS/ MORIARTY BILL TO CREATE 'PATRIOTS' TRIBUTE ADVANCING**

(TRENTON) – As the Independence Day holiday nears, legislation Assembly members Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., Pamela R. Lampitt, John J. Burzichelli, Jack Conners and Paul Moriarty sponsored to create a permanent State House tribute to New Jersey's patriotic men and women in uniform is advancing.

“All New Jerseyans take pride in the sacrifices and dedication of the men and woman who serve in the military to keep us secure and free,” said Diegnan (D-Middlesex). “We have numerous memorials for the men and women who have sacrificed so much for this state and county. This memorial gives proper due to those who are actively serving our nation.”

The measure (A-379) would create a “Patriots Corner” in a prominent place at the State House in Trenton. The monument – to be funded by private donations – would honor the active service of all New Jerseyans in the United States Armed Forces and the New Jersey Army National Guard.

“Service personnel are called upon to leave their families and enter life-threatening situations at a moment's notice,” said Lampitt (D-Camden). “These men and women should be recognized, honored and thanked.”

More than 30,000 visitors annually take guided tours of the State House.

“Patriots Corner would be the perfect way to show New Jersey's soldiers, military families, and the all who visit the State House how much the state values their service to our nation,” said Burzichelli (D-Gloucester). “The men and women who serve in the armed forces have earned our deepest respect and appreciation.”

The bill – approved 78-0 by the Assembly during a recent session – has been referred to the Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee for further consideration.

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