



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, brave men and women throughout our nation's history have served with honor in the United States Armed Forces and have participated in the wars and conflicts in which this country has engaged; and

WHEREAS, since President Franklin Roosevelt signed the first GI Bill, known officially as the "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944," the Federal government has provided federal aid to help veterans readjust to civilian life, including financial assistance for tuition, books, supplies and other fees for education; and

WHEREAS, by the time the first GI Bill expired on July 25, 1956, an estimated 7.8 million of the 16 million World War II veterans had participated in an education or training program, using benefits provided through the GI Bill; and

WHEREAS, with the events of September 11, 2001 spawning two wars and creating a new generation of veterans, President George Bush signed the "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008" to provide educational benefits and significantly reduce the cost of attending a college for veterans who have served since September 11, 2001, including active duty National Guard and Reserve members; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2011 U.S. Census data, employees with an associate's degree earn 26.3% more than those with only a high school diploma, and persons with a bachelor's degree earn 87.4% more than those with only a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, the lack of awareness of available educational benefits, or how to attain them, can deter veterans from seeking post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, veterans in the State of New Jersey can find important information and updates on the Operation College Promise website, including resources to help veterans maximize the education entitlements they have earned, and should develop an awareness and understanding of this beneficial resource;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

NOVEMBER 13 THROUGH 19, 2011

AS

VETERANS' EDUCATION AWARENESS WEEK

in New Jersey.



Kim Guadagno
Lt. GOVERNOR

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this fourth day of October in the year two thousand eleven, the two hundred thirty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States.

Chris Christie
GOVERNOR