

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 220 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, SAINATO, BAKER, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BROOKS, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, CUTLER, P. DALEY, DEASY, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FLECK, FREEMAN, GIBBONS, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL, HAHN, HARHAI, C. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MALONEY, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MASSER, MENTZER, MILLARD, MILLER, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PAINTER, PAYNE, PICKETT, RAPP, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SACCONI, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TURZAI, VEREB, YOUNGBLOOD AND WATSON, APRIL 8, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 8, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating Wednesday, April 17, 2013, as "National Guard Day"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 1747, Benjamin Franklin organized the
4 "Associators" in Philadelphia; and

5 WHEREAS, Units of today's Pennsylvania National Guard trace
6 their lineage to the first Associators; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1755, the General Assembly of the Province of
8 Pennsylvania received a great number of petitions from the
9 several counties of the province "setting forth that the
10 petitioners were very willing to defend themselves and their
11 country and desirous of being formed into regular bodies for
12 that purpose, instructed and disciplined under proper officers

1 with suitable and legal authority"; and

2 WHEREAS, Responding to these petitions, the representatives
3 of the Province of Pennsylvania, meeting in General Assembly,
4 passed this Commonwealth's first militia law on November 25,
5 1755; and

6 WHEREAS, The militia law, passed "for the better ordering and
7 regulating such as are willing and desirous to be united for
8 military purposes within this province" created the volunteer
9 militia and laid the legal foundation for the militia and the
10 Pennsylvania National Guard; and

11 WHEREAS, Enactment of the act of November 25, 1755, marked
12 the beginning of more than 250 years of cooperation and support
13 from the General Assembly for the Pennsylvania militia, the
14 Pennsylvania National Guard and the soldiers and airmen who
15 proudly serve this Commonwealth and this nation; and

16 WHEREAS, For more than 250 years, in war and in peace,
17 Pennsylvania National Guard soldiers and airmen have served at
18 home and abroad in every war and have responded to floods,
19 blizzards and other emergencies at home; and

20 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's National Guard force reaches from the
21 Joint Force Headquarters located at Fort Indiantown Gap, Lebanon
22 County, to almost 90 communities across this Commonwealth; and

23 WHEREAS, Today the Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the
24 top ten employers in this Commonwealth with approximately 3,500
25 of its members serving in a full-time capacity and the remaining
26 15,500 members serving as "traditional" members who train on a
27 part-time basis while pursuing civilian education or careers;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the
30 largest National Guard forces in the nation; and

WHEREAS, The 28th Infantry Division is the oldest continuously serving division in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, The 213th Regional Support Group is the Pennsylvania National Guard's second major army unit that handles combat support missions, including transportation, finance and personnel services; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Air National Guard is made up of the 111th Fighter Wing for air support missions and for a ground-control station for the MQ-9 Reaper, the 171st Air Refueling Wing for worldwide aerial refueling capabilities and the 193rd Special Operations Wing for providing the only aerial broadcasting capability in the world; and

WHEREAS, In time of war, national or State emergency, or in support of any military operation worldwide, the President may mobilize units of the National Guard into active Federal service; and

WHEREAS, The active Federal service of the Pennsylvania National Guard has included service in every conflict America has faced, from the Revolutionary War through Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as peacekeeping missions around the globe; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard in peacetime offers broad support to the civilian community through the Counterdrug Task Force, which provides trained personnel and specialized equipment to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in the fight against the use of illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania National Guard members serve as role models, as well as community volunteers and civic leaders, throughout this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard's outstanding performance was on display in 2011 when more than 3,000 soldiers

1 and airmen responded to the call of duty to assist in recovery
2 efforts and rescue missions when called up for duty under three
3 separate disaster emergencies; and

4 WHEREAS, In September 2005, in the wake of the Hurricanes
5 Katrina and Rita, 2,500 of our soldiers and airmen were deployed
6 to the Gulf Coast within a few days of the storm to provide
7 communications, humanitarian assistance and force protection;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, In November 2012, more than 400 Pennsylvania
10 National Guard members traveled to New York and New Jersey on a
11 moment's notice to provide much-needed support. Their admirable
12 performance garnered well-deserved recognition from both
13 government officials and citizens of our neighbor states; and

14 WHEREAS, After more than a decade of sustained high-tempo
15 combat operations, the Pennsylvania National Guard continues to
16 fight overseas and support regional domestic missions here at
17 home; and

18 WHEREAS, More than 500 Pennsylvania National Guard aviators
19 are using their unrivaled technical expertise and experience to
20 perform a spectrum of aviation operations throughout
21 Afghanistan. Having flown in the skies of Iraq, Afghanistan and
22 Kosovo continuously over the past decade, it is fitting that
23 they have returned to Afghanistan during this pivotal moment in
24 the transition of our military's presence there; and

25 WHEREAS, More than 1,500 Pennsylvania National Guard members
26 are currently performing base security missions in Kuwait,
27 keeping United States troops, contractors and assets safe while
28 the nation consolidates its footprint in the Middle East; and

29 WHEREAS, In January, more than 1,200 Pennsylvania soldiers
30 and airmen participated in the time-honored tradition of

supporting the inauguration of our president, assisting with crowd management, traffic control and logistical support; and

WHEREAS, Ninety members of the 201st RED HORSE and 252nd Engineer Company assisted with recovery efforts in Connecticut after Winter Storm Nemo, helping with closed roadways, stranded motorists, transportation of health care professionals to hospitals and checking on the welfare of area residents who were cut off from power, food or medical care; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard has supported nearly 35,000 individual deployments since September 11, 2001, making it one of the busiest and most heavily deployed National Guards in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The continued support of the General Assembly has been and is critical to the success of the Pennsylvania National Guard; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate Wednesday, April 17, 2013, as "National Guard Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That it is the intent of the House of Representatives to recognize the men and women of our armed forces for their dedicated service to this Commonwealth and this nation and commend them especially for the outstanding performance of their duties around the world, in the Global War on Terror and in response to natural disasters; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives give thanks for the Pennsylvania National Guard and the service of generations of soldiers and airmen from across Pennsylvania from our days as a royal colony to the great Commonwealth we are today; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
2 the Governor and to The Adjutant General of Pennsylvania.