

House Resolution 902

By: Representatives Hitchens of the 161st, Burns of the 159th, Coomer of the 14th, Belton of the 112th, Jackson of the 64th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing January 25, 2018, as National Guard Day at the capitol; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense provides combat-ready military forces to
3 the President of the United States and disaster response forces to the Governor in the event
4 of emergencies within the State of Georgia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense consists of the Georgia Army National
6 Guard, the Georgia Air National Guard, and the Georgia State Defense Force; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the GA DOD employs over 10,891 Army National Guard Soldiers, 2,746 Air
8 National Guard Airmen, 583 State Defense Force members, and over 600 state employees;
9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is the eighth largest in the nation, with training
11 sites in more than 68 hometown armories and regional facilities across the state, and includes
12 combat, combat support, and combat service support units; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is organized into five major subordinate
14 commands, which are the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 78th Troop Command,
15 the 78th Aviation Troop Command, the 201st Regional Support Group, and the 648th
16 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade; and
- 17 WHEREAS, the Georgia Air National Guard is the air power component of the State of
18 Georgia, with 2,746 airmen and officers assigned to the 116th Air Control Wing in Warner
19 Robins, the 165th Airlift Wing in Savannah, and seven geographically separated units
20 throughout Georgia, each providing command and control, airlift, and communications
21 capabilities and supporting Georgia's homeland defense and disaster response capabilities;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Defense Force is a volunteer unit of the Georgia Department
24 of Defense, consisting of 565 personnel and providing critical capabilities to the state's
25 emergency response under the direction of the Governor and the Adjutant General of
26 Georgia; and

27 WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, more than 18,000 members of the Georgia National
28 Guard have been deployed overseas, with more than 200 being currently deployed; and

29 WHEREAS, over 3,000 Georgia Guardsmen and State Defense Force personnel were placed
30 on state active duty to assist the citizens of Georgia and Florida due to damage caused by
31 Hurricane Irma; and

32 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force provided training to 100
33 law enforcement agencies and assisted with the seizure of illegal drugs worth \$89.5 million,
34 \$3 million in cash, and \$4 million in property; and

35 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard operates one of the nation's most successful Youth
36 Challenge Academy programs at Fort Stewart, Fort Gordon, and in Milledgeville, Georgia,
37 where to date over 15,000 high school dropouts have graduated and have been given the
38 opportunity to receive a high school diploma or a general educational development diploma,
39 as well as employment opportunities in industry or the military; and

40 WHEREAS, the actions of the members of the Georgia Department of Defense stand as a
41 shining example of the selflessness of those called to serve, and it is abundantly fitting and
42 proper that the outstanding accomplishments of these remarkable and dedicated Georgians
43 be appropriately recognized.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
45 the members of this body commend the men and women of the Georgia National Guard for
46 their strength, leadership, courage, and desire to find meaning in something greater than
47 themselves and recognize January 25, 2018, as National Guard Day at the capitol.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
49 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
50 Georgia National Guard.