

## Senate Resolution 172

By: Senators Hill of the 6th, Dugan of the 30th, Watson of the 1st, Kennedy of the 18th, Albers of the 56th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 6, 2017, as National Guard Day at the capitol; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense provides ready and relevant military forces  
3 to the Combatant Commanders and, with the consent of the Governor, provides command  
4 and control capabilities to support homeland defense and defense support to civil authorities;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense is located at the Clay National Guard  
7 Center in Marietta, Georgia, and includes the Georgia Army National Guard, the Georgia Air  
8 National Guard, and the Georgia State Defense Force; and

9 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense employs over 10,908 Army National Guard  
10 Soldiers, 2,896 Air National Guard Airmen, 509 State Defense Force members, and 632 state  
11 employees; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is the eighth largest in the nation composed of  
13 combat, combat support, and combat service support units training in nearly 70 hometown  
14 armories and regional facilities across the state; and

15 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is organized into five major subordinate  
16 commands which are the Macon-based 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 78th Troop  
17 Command, the 78th Aviation Troop Command, the 201st Regional Support Group at Clay  
18 National Guard Center in Marietta, and the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Fort  
19 Benning in Columbus; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia Air National Guard is the air power component of the State of  
21 Georgia with 2,896 airmen and officers assigned to the 116th Air Control Wing in Warner  
22 Robins, the 165th Airlift Wing in Savannah, and seven geographically separated units

23 throughout Georgia; and they play an active role in supporting Georgia's homeland defense  
24 posture, providing airlift, engineering, and communications resources and abilities; and

25 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Defense Force is a volunteer unit of the Georgia Department  
26 of Defense, serving in support of the national and state constitutions under the direction of  
27 the Governor and the adjutant general of Georgia; and

28 WHEREAS, in 2016 alone, the Georgia National Guard deployed more than 600 soldiers and  
29 airmen to every geographic command; and

30 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard also operated one of the most robust and successful  
31 Youth Challenge Academy programs in the United States at Fort Stewart and Fort Gordon,  
32 Georgia, where to date over 14,000 high school dropouts have graduated and have been  
33 given opportunities to receive a high school diploma or general educational development  
34 (GED) diploma; in addition, Georgia's Youth Challenge Academy has been instrumental in  
35 helping these young men and women secure a lasting future through assistance in  
36 employment opportunities for the recent graduates; and

37 WHEREAS, following more than two decades of partnership between Argentina and the  
38 State of Georgia, the National Guard Bureau selected the Georgia Department of Defense to  
39 serve as a state partner to Argentina; and

40 WHEREAS, the selfless and heroic actions of the Georgia National Guard stand as a shining  
41 tribute to the strength of the human spirit, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the  
42 outstanding accomplishments of these remarkable and distinguished Georgians be  
43 appropriately recognized.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
45 commend the men and women of the Georgia National Guard for their strength, leadership,  
46 and courage in their willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves and  
47 recognize March 6, 2017, as National Guard Day at the capitol.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
49 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia  
50 National Guard.