

Senate Resolution 48

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Harbison of the 15th, Thompson of the 33rd, Murphy of the 27th, Loudermilk of the 14th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing January 29, 2013, as National Guard Day at the capitol; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense (GA DOD) is a state agency in charge of
3 coordinating and supervising all agencies and functions of the Georgia National Guard; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense is located at Clay National Guard Center
5 in Marietta, Georgia, and includes the Georgia Army National Guard, the Georgia Air
6 National Guard, and the Georgia State Defense Force; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the GA DOD employs over 11,000 Army National Guard soldiers, 2,800 Air
8 National Guard airmen, 850 State Defense Force members, and 460 state employees; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is the eighth largest in the nation with training
10 in more than 79 hometown armories and regional facilities across the state, and it includes
11 combat, combat support, and combat service support units; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is organized into five major subordinate
13 commands, the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of Macon, the 78th Homeland
14 Response Force at Clay National Center in Marietta, the 560th Battlefield Surveillance
15 Brigade at Fort Gillem, and the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Fort Benning in
16 Columbus; and
- 17 WHEREAS, the Georgia Air National Guard is the air power component of the State of
18 Georgia with 3,000 airmen and officers assigned to the two flying wings and seven
19 geographically separated units throughout Georgia, and they play an active role in supporting
20 Georgia's homeland defense posture, providing airlift, engineering, and communications
21 resources and abilities; and

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

25 WHEREAS, in 2012 alone, the Georgia National Guard deployed well over 1,500 soldiers
26 and airmen to the strategic locations of Afghanistan, Kosovo, Guantanamo Bay, the Republic
27 of Georgia, and the Southwest Border; flew over 9,400 combat hours in support of Operation
28 Enduring Freedom; continued to support operations against the domestic threats within the
29 State of Georgia; and actively participated in the Hurricane Sandy relief effort by deploying
30 units to New York and New Jersey; and

31 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard also operates one of the most robust and successful
32 Youth Challenge Academy (YCA) programs in the United States at Fort Stewart and Fort
33 Gordon, Georgia, where to date over 11,000 high school dropouts have graduated and have
34 been given opportunities to receive a high school diploma or general educational
35 development (GED) diploma; in addition, Georgia's YCA has been instrumental in helping
36 these young men and women secure a lasting future through assistance in employment
37 opportunities for the recent graduates; and

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

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
43 commend the men and women of the Georgia National Guard for their strength, leadership,
44 and courage in their willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves and
45 recognize January 29, 2013, as National Guard Day at the capitol.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
47 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia National Guard.