

## Senate Resolution 609

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Dugan of the 30th, Harbison of the 15th, Anderson of the 43rd, Walker III of the 20th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 25, 2018, as National Guard Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense provides combat-ready military forces to  
4 the President of the United States and disaster response forces to the Governor in the event  
5 of emergencies within the State of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense consists of the Georgia Army National  
7 Guard, the Georgia Air National Guard, and the Georgia State Defense Force; and

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense employs more than 11,000 Army National  
9 Guard soldiers, 2,800 Air National Guard airmen, 600 State Defense Force members, and  
10 more than 600 state employees; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is the eighth largest in the nation, with training  
12 sites in more than 68 hometown armories and regional facilities across the state, and includes  
13 combat, combat support, and combat service support units; and

14 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is organized into five major subordinate  
15 commands, which are the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 78th Troop Command,  
16 the 78th Aviation Troop Command, the 201st Regional Support Group, and the 648th  
17 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade; and

18 WHEREAS, the Georgia Air National Guard is the air power component of the State of  
19 Georgia, with 2,800 airmen and officers assigned to the 116th Air Control Wing in Warner  
20 Robins, the 165th Airlift Wing in Savannah, and to seven geographically separated units  
21 throughout Georgia, each providing command and control, airlift, and communications  
22 capabilities; 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 deployed overseas, with more than 200 currently deployed; and

29 WHEREAS, over 5,000 Georgia Guardsmen and State Defense Force personnel were placed  
30 on state active duty to assist the citizens of Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin  
31 Islands in the wake of devastation caused by hurricanes; 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 more than 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 meaningful example of the selflessness of those called to serve, and it is abundantly fitting  
42 and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of these remarkable and dedicated  
43 Georgians be 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 courage, and desire to find meaning in something greater than themselves, and recognize  
47 January 25, 2018, as National Guard Day at the state capitol.

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