
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 101 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, STACK, GREENLEAF, WOZNIAK, TOMLINSON,
TEPLITZ, ERICKSON, FERLO, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, BROWNE,
FOLMER, MENSCH, YAW, WILLIAMS, KASUNIC, BRUBAKER, BREWSTER,
ROBBINS, SCHWANK, WASHINGTON, TARTAGLIONE, RAFFERTY,
VULAKOVICH, GORDNER, SMITH, WHITE, PILEGGI, YUDICHAK, ARGALL,
SOLOBAY, WAUGH AND COSTA, APRIL 17, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 17, 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 which was the forerunner of
5 today's Pennsylvania National Guard; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1755, the General Assembly of the Province of
7 Pennsylvania received petitions from several counties "setting
8 forth that the petitioners were very willing to defend
9 themselves and their country"; and

10 WHEREAS, Responding to these petitions, the representatives
11 of the Province of Pennsylvania, meeting in General Assembly,
12 passed this Commonwealth's first militia law on November 25,
13 1755; and

14 WHEREAS, The militia law, passed "for the better ordering and
15 regulating such as are willing and desirous to be united for
16 military purposes within this province" created the volunteer

militia and laid the legal foundation for the militia and the
Pennsylvania National Guard; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the
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

1 the 111th Fighter Wing for air support missions and for a
2 ground-control station for the MQ-9 Reaper, the 171st Air
3 Refueling Wing for worldwide aerial refueling capabilities and
4 the 193rd Special Operations Wing for providing the only aerial
5 broadcasting capability in the world; and

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard's outstanding
23 performance was on display in 2011 when more than 3,000 soldiers
24 and airmen responded to the call of duty to assist in recovery
25 efforts and rescue missions when called up for duty under three
26 separate disaster emergencies, including Hurricane Irene and
27 Tropical Storm Lee; and

28 WHEREAS, In September 2005, in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina
29 and Rita, 2,500 of our soldiers and airmen were deployed to the
30 Gulf Coast within a few days of the storm to provide

1 communications, humanitarian assistance and force protection;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In November 2012, more than 400 Pennsylvania
4 National Guard members traveled to New York and New Jersey on a
5 moment's notice to provide much-needed support with their
6 admirable performance garnering well-deserved recognition from
7 both government officials and citizens of our neighbor states;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, After more than a decade of sustained high-tempo
10 combat operations, the Pennsylvania National Guard continues to
11 fight overseas and support regional domestic missions here at
12 home; and

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

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

24 WHEREAS, In January, more than 1,200 Pennsylvania soldiers
25 and airmen participated in the time-honored tradition of
26 supporting the inauguration of our president, assisting with
27 crowd management, traffic control and logistical support; and

28 WHEREAS, Ninety members of the 201st RED HORSE and 252nd
29 Engineer Company assisted with recovery efforts in Connecticut
30 after Winter Storm Nemo, helping with closed roadways, stranded

1 motorists, transportation of health care professionals to
2 hospitals and checking on the welfare of area residents who were
3 cut off from power, food or medical care; and

4 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard has supported nearly
5 35,000 individual deployments since September 11, 2001, making
6 it one of the busiest and most heavily deployed National Guards
7 in the United States; and

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

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate Wednesday, April 17,
12 2013, as "National Guard Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

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

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

23 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
24 the Governor and to the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania.