
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 347 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MAKO, HAHN, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD, PICKETT,
HENNESSEY, SOLOMON, OBERLANDER, BURNS, BIZZARRO, BARRAR,
DONATUCCI, POLINCHOCK, KORTZ, BERNSTINE, RYAN, O'NEAL,
PASHINSKI, COX, MALONEY, HILL-EVANS, CALTAGIRONE, ROZZI,
WILLIAMS, HICKERNELL, SONNEY, EMRICK, MATZIE, JAMES,
YOUNGBLOOD, SCHLOSSBERG, BROWN, LONGIETTI, McNEILL, SCHMITT,
BOBACK, TOEPEL, GOODMAN, KULIK AND SCHLEGEL CULVER,
MAY 15, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 15, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 12, 2019, as "National Guard Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 1747, Benjamin Franklin organized the Associators
4 of Philadelphia; and

5 WHEREAS, Units of today's Pennsylvania National Guard trace
6 their lineage to the first Associators; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1755, the General Assembly of the Province of
8 Pennsylvania received a great number of petitions from the
9 several counties of the province "setting forth, That the
10 Petitioners were very willing to defend themselves and their
11 Country, and desirous of being formed into regular Bodies for
12 that Purpose, instructed and disciplined under proper Officers,
13 with suitable and legal Authority"; and

14 WHEREAS, Responding to these petitions, the representatives

1 of the Province of Pennsylvania, meeting in General Assembly,
2 passed this Commonwealth's first militia law on November 25,
3 1755; and

4 WHEREAS, The Militia Act, passed "for the better Ordering and
5 Regulating such as are willing and desirous to be united for
6 Military Purposes within this Province" created the volunteer
7 militia and laid the legal foundation for the militia and the
8 Pennsylvania National Guard; and

9 WHEREAS, Enactment of the act of November 25, 1755, marked
10 the beginning of 264 years of cooperation and support from the
11 General Assembly for the Pennsylvania militia, the Pennsylvania
12 National Guard and the soldiers and airmen who proudly serve
13 this Commonwealth and this nation; and

14 WHEREAS, In war and in peace, Pennsylvania National Guard
15 soldiers and airmen have served at home and abroad and have
16 responded to floods, blizzards and other emergencies at home;
17 and

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

21 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the top 10
22 employers in this Commonwealth; and

23 WHEREAS, More than 3,600 Pennsylvania National Guard members
24 serve in a full-time capacity; and

25 WHEREAS, Close to 15,000 of the remaining Pennsylvania
26 National Guard members serve as traditional part-time members
27 who train while pursuing civilian education or careers; and

28 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the
29 largest National Guard forces in the nation; and

30 WHEREAS, The 28th Infantry Division is the oldest

1 continuously serving division in the United States Army; and

2 WHEREAS, The 213th Regional Support Group is the Pennsylvania
3 National Guard's second major army unit that handles combat
4 support missions, including transportation, finance and
5 personnel services; and

6 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Air National Guard is comprised of
7 the 111th Attack Wing for air support and MQ-9 Reaper ground
8 control, the 171st Air Refueling Wing for worldwide aerial
9 refueling and the 193rd Special Operations Wing for specialized
10 aerial broadcasting missions; and

11 WHEREAS, For the first time, all three Pennsylvania National
12 Guard wings have received Outstanding Unit Awards during the
13 same awards cycle; and

14 WHEREAS, In time of war, national or state emergency, or in
15 support of any military operation worldwide, the President of
16 the United States may mobilize units of the National Guard into
17 active Federal service; and

18 WHEREAS, The active Federal service of the Pennsylvania
19 National Guard has included engagement in every conflict this
20 nation has faced, from the Revolutionary War through Operation
21 Enduring Freedom, and in peacekeeping missions around the globe;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard in peacetime offers
24 broad support to the civilian community through the Pennsylvania
25 Counterdrug Joint Task Force (CJTF); and

26 WHEREAS, CJTF has provided trained personnel and specialized
27 equipment to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in
28 disposing of drugs in the fight against the use of illegal
29 drugs; and

30 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania National Guard members serve as role

1 models as well as community volunteers and civic leaders
2 throughout this Commonwealth; and

3 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard's outstanding
4 performance was on display in 2018 when more than 1,479 soldiers
5 and airmen provided support for Hurricane Florence, Winter
6 Storms Toby, Quinn and Riley, as well as three separate flooding
7 events; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2019, nearly 600 Pennsylvania National Guard
9 members responded to Winter Storm Harper; and

10 WHEREAS, Currently, the Pennsylvania National Guard has
11 deployed more than 1,039 members to Afghanistan, Poland and the
12 Middle East with additional deployments anticipated; and

13 WHEREAS, After more than a decade of sustained high-tempo
14 combat operations, the Pennsylvania National Guard continues to
15 fight overseas and support regional domestic missions; and

16 WHEREAS, With approximately 40,593 individual deployments
17 since September 11, 2001, the Pennsylvania National Guard is one
18 of the busiest and most heavily deployed National Guards in the
19 United States; and

20 WHEREAS, This year's theme, "Guardsmen and Their Families -
21 Serving Pennsylvania," pays tribute to our residents, soldiers
22 and airmen of the Pennsylvania National Guard; and

23 WHEREAS, We honor these men and women for their dedication
24 and service which has led to the distinction of Pennsylvania
25 having one of the most successful National Guards across our
26 great country; and

27 WHEREAS, The continued support of the General Assembly
28 remains critical to the success of the Pennsylvania National
29 Guard; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June

1 12, 2019, as "National Guard Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the men
4 and women of our armed forces for their dedicated service to
5 this Commonwealth and this nation and commend them for the
6 outstanding performance of their duties around the world, in the
7 Global War on Terror and in response to natural disasters; and
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives give thanks for
10 the Pennsylvania National Guard and the service of generations
11 of soldiers and airmen from across Pennsylvania from our days as
12 a proprietary colony to the great Commonwealth we are today; and
13 be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
15 the Governor and to the Adjutant General.