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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 696 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, SAINATO, GABLER, MICCARELLI, ADOLPH, AUMENT, BAKER, BOBACK, BOYD, BRENNAN, BURNS, CAUSER, CLYMER, D. COSTA, COX, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EMRICK, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FLECK, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, HAHN, HARHAI, HESS, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MILLARD, MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, MUNDY, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PERRY, PETRARCA, RAPP, READSHAW, ROAE, ROCK, ROSS, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, STERN, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TOBASH, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON AND GILLEN, APRIL 30, 2012

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 30, 2012

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 1, 2012, as "National Guard Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 1747, Benjamin Franklin organized the  
4 "Associators" in 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

1       WHEREAS, Responding to these petitions, the representatives  
2 of the Province of Pennsylvania, meeting in General Assembly,  
3 passed this Commonwealth's first militia law on November 25,  
4 1755; and

5       WHEREAS, The militia law, passed "for the better ordering and  
6 regulating such as are willing and desirous to be united for  
7 military purposes within this province", created the volunteer  
8 militia and laid the legal foundation for the militia and the  
9 Pennsylvania National Guard; and

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

15       WHEREAS, For more than 250 years, in war and in peace,  
16 Pennsylvania National Guard soldiers and airmen have served at  
17 home and abroad, serving in every war and responding to floods,  
18 blizzards and other emergencies at home; and

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

22       WHEREAS, Today, the Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the  
23 top ten employers in this Commonwealth with approximately 3,000  
24 of its members serving in a full-time capacity, with the  
25 remaining 16,000 members serving as "traditional" guard members  
26 who train on a part-time basis while pursuing civilian  
27 educations or careers; and

28       WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the  
29 largest National Guard forces in the nation with its army  
30 component being the largest and air component the fourth largest

1 in the country; and

2 WHEREAS, The 28th Infantry Division is the oldest,  
3 continuous-serving division in the United States Army; and

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania was selected as the only National Guard  
5 force in the country to field a Stryker Brigade Combat Team  
6 (SBCT), which is one of only seven Stryker brigades in the  
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, The 213th Regional Support Group is the Pennsylvania  
9 National Guard's second major army unit that handles combat  
10 support missions, including transportation, finance and  
11 personnel services; and

12 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Air National Guard is made up of  
13 the 111th Fighter Wing for air support missions; the 171st Air  
14 Refueling Wing for worldwide aerial refueling capabilities; and  
15 the 193rd Special Operations Wing for providing the only aerial  
16 broadcasting capability in the world; and

17 WHEREAS, In time of war, national or State emergency, or in  
18 support of any military operation worldwide, the President may  
19 mobilize units of the National Guard into active Federal  
20 service; and

21 WHEREAS, The active Federal service of the Pennsylvania  
22 National Guard has included service in every conflict America  
23 has faced, from the Revolutionary War through Iraqi Freedom, as  
24 well as peacekeeping missions around the globe; and

25 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard, in peacetime,  
26 offers broad support to the civilian community through the  
27 Counterdrug Task Force, which provides trained personnel and  
28 specialized equipment to assist State and local law enforcement  
29 agencies in the fight against illegal 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, It is the intent of the House of Representatives to  
4 recognize the men and women of our armed forces for their  
5 dedicated service to this Commonwealth and this nation and  
6 commend them especially for the outstanding performance of their  
7 duties around the world and in the Global War On Terror and in  
8 response to natural disasters; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard's outstanding  
10 performance was on display in 2011 when more than 3,000 soldiers  
11 and airmen responded to the call of duty to assist in recovery  
12 efforts and rescue missions when called up for duty under three  
13 separate disaster emergencies; and

14 WHEREAS, The continued support of the General Assembly has  
15 been and is critical to the success of the Pennsylvania National  
16 Guard; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and  
18 designate May 1, 2012, as "National Guard Day" in Pennsylvania;  
19 and be it further

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

25 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
26 the Governor and to The Adjutant General of Pennsylvania.