

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 121 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY FAIRCHILD, MELIO, BARRAR, BELFANTI, BEYER, BISHOP, BRENNAN, CLYMER, COHEN, D. COSTA, COX, DeLUCA, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARHART, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, JOHNSON, M. KELLER, KILLION, KOTIK, KULA, MAHONEY, MANN, MARSICO, McCALL, MENSCH, MILLARD, MILLER, MOUL, MUNDY, MURPHY, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, QUIGLEY, QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROAE, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, S. H. SMITH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STERN, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TRUE, TURZAI, VEREB, WALKO, WATSON, YUDICHAK AND CONKLIN, MARCH 9, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 9, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 10, 2009, 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

1 with suitable and legal authority"; and

2 WHEREAS, Responding to these petitions, the representatives
3 of the Province of Pennsylvania, meeting in General Assembly,
4 passed this Commonwealth's first militia law on November 25,
5 1755; and

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the
30 largest National Guard forces in the nation with its army

1 component being the largest and air component the fourth largest
2 in the country; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, More than 450,000 members of the United States Army
27 Reserve Components have been called to active service around the
28 world since 2001, including more than 20,000 of Pennsylvania's
29 soldiers and airmen; and

30 WHEREAS, The 56th Stryker Brigade consisting of more than

1 4,000 soldiers has been recently deployed to Iraq and more than
2 1,000 soldiers from the 28th Combat Aviation Brigade will join
3 the Stryker Brigade in Iraq; and

4 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard, in peacetime,
5 offers broad support to the civilian community through the
6 Counterdrug Program, which provides trained personnel and
7 specialized equipment to assist State and local law enforcement
8 agencies in the fight against illegal drugs; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania National Guard members serve as role
10 models, as well as community volunteers and civic leaders
11 throughout this Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the House of Representatives to
13 recognize the men and women of our armed forces for their
14 dedicated service to this Commonwealth and this nation and
15 commend them especially for the outstanding performance of their
16 duties around the world and in the Global War On Terror and in
17 response to natural disasters; and

18 WHEREAS, The continued support of the General Assembly has
19 been and is critical to the success of the Pennsylvania National
20 Guard; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
22 designate March 10, 2009, as "National Guard Day" in
23 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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

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