
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 257 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, COSTA, ARGALL, AUMENT, BAKER,
BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, BROOKS, DINNIMAN, EICHELBERGER, FOLMER,
FONTANA, GORDNER, GREENLEAF, HUTCHINSON, KITCHEN, PILEGGI,
RESCHENTHALER, SABATINA, SCAVELLO, SCHWANK, TEPLITZ, WHITE
AND YUDICHAK, DECEMBER 7, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, DECEMBER 7, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating December 8, 2015, as "National Guard Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

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

14 WHEREAS, Responding to these petitions, the representatives
15 of the Province of Pennsylvania, meeting in General Assembly,
16 passed this Commonwealth's first militia law on November 25,

1 1755; and

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

7 WHEREAS, Enactment of the act of November 25, 1755, marked
8 the beginning of more than 260 years of cooperation and support
9 from the General Assembly for the Pennsylvania militia, the
10 Pennsylvania National Guard and the soldiers and airmen who
11 proudly serve this Commonwealth and this nation; and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Today, the Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the
19 top 10 employers in this Commonwealth;

20 WHEREAS, Approximately 3,608 Pennsylvania National Guard
21 members serve in a full-time capacity; and

22 WHEREAS, Approximately 16,178 Pennsylvania National Guard
23 members serve as traditional part-time members who train while
24 pursuing civilian education or careers; and

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

27 WHEREAS, The 28th Infantry Division is the oldest
28 continuously serving division in the United States Army; and

29 WHEREAS, The 213th Regional Support Group is the Pennsylvania
30 National Guard's second major army unit that handles combat

1 support missions, including transportation, finance and
2 personnel services; and

3 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Air National Guard is made up of
4 the 111th Attack Wing for air support and MQ-9 Reaper ground
5 control, the 171st Air Refueling Wing for worldwide aerial
6 refueling and the 193rd Special Operations Wing for specialized
7 airborne broadcast missions; and

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

12 WHEREAS, The active Federal service of the Pennsylvania
13 National Guard has included engagement in every conflict this
14 nation has faced, from the Revolutionary War through Operation
15 Enduring Freedom, and in peacekeeping missions around the globe;
16 and

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

20 WHEREAS, CJTF has provided trained personnel and specialized
21 equipment to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in
22 disposing more than 40,264 pounds of illegal drugs valued at
23 more than \$20.2 million dollars; and

24 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania National Guard members are role models
25 as well as community volunteers and civic leaders throughout
26 this Commonwealth; and

27 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard's outstanding
28 performance was on display in 2015 when more than 5,832 soldiers
29 and airmen provided support to the Pope's visit to the City of
30 Philadelphia for the largest National Special Security Event in

1 United States history; and

2 WHEREAS, In the last five years, the Pennsylvania National
3 Guard activated roughly 9,416 troops who spent more than 31,533
4 days on State active duty missions, including winter storm and
5 hurricane response and other domestic operations; and

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

9 WHEREAS, With 34,100 individual deployments since September
10 11, 2001, the Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the busiest
11 and most heavily deployed National Guards in the United States;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The continued support of the General Assembly
14 remains critical to the success of the Pennsylvania National
15 Guard; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate December 8, 2015, as
17 "National Guard Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the men and women of our
19 armed forces for their dedicated service to this Commonwealth
20 and this nation and commend them especially for the outstanding
21 performance of their duties around the world, in the Global War
22 on Terror and in response to natural disasters; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate give thanks for the Pennsylvania
25 National Guard and the generations of soldiers and airmen who
26 have ably conducted operations from our days as a proprietary
27 colony to the present; and be it further

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