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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 369 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, COSTA, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BLAKE,  
BREWSTER, BROOKS, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, EICHELBERGER, FARNESE,  
FONTANA, GORDNER, GREENLEAF, KILLION, SABATINA, SCHWANK AND  
VOGEL, MAY 23, 2018

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 23, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 23, 2018, as "National Guard Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This year's theme for "National Guard Day," "We Are  
4 Pennsylvania," pays tribute to the citizens, soldiers and airmen  
5 of the Pennsylvania National Guard; and

6 WHEREAS, We honor these men and women for their dedication  
7 and service which has led to the distinction of this  
8 Commonwealth having one of the most successful National Guards  
9 across our great country; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1747, Benjamin Franklin organized the Associators  
11 of Philadelphia; and

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

14 WHEREAS, In 1755, the General Assembly of the Province of  
15 Pennsylvania received a great number of petitions from the  
16 several counties of the province "setting forth, That the  
17 Petitioners were very willing to defend themselves and their

1 Country, and desirous of being formed into regular Bodies for  
2 that Purpose, instructed and disciplined under proper Officers,  
3 with suitable and legal authority"; and

4 WHEREAS, Responding to these petitions, the representatives  
5 of the Province of Pennsylvania, meeting in General Assembly,  
6 passed this Commonwealth's first militia law on November 25,  
7 1755; and

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

13 WHEREAS, Enactment of the act of November 25, 1755, marked  
14 the beginning of more than 260 years of cooperation and support  
15 from the General Assembly for the Pennsylvania militia, the  
16 Pennsylvania National Guard and the soldiers and airmen who  
17 proudly serve this Commonwealth and this nation; and

18 WHEREAS, In war and in peace, Pennsylvania National Guard  
19 soldiers and airmen have served at home and abroad and have  
20 responded to floods, blizzards and other emergencies at home;  
21 and

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

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

27 WHEREAS, Approximately 3,600 Pennsylvania National Guard  
28 members serve in a full-time capacity; and

29 WHEREAS, The remaining 16,400 Pennsylvania National Guard  
30 members serve as traditional part-time members who train while

1 pursuing civilian education or careers; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, CJTF has provided trained personnel and specialized  
28 equipment to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in  
29 disposing of more than 66,410 pounds of drugs with an estimated  
30 street value of more than \$37.9 million in the fight against the

1 use of illegal drugs; and

2 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania National Guard members serve as role  
3 models as well as community volunteers and civic leaders  
4 throughout this Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard's outstanding  
6 performance was on display in 2017 when more than 988 soldiers  
7 and airmen provided support in response to hurricanes Harvey,  
8 Irma and Maria and Winter Storm Stella and Erie's winter storm;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In the last year, the Pennsylvania National Guard  
11 activated roughly 1,760 troops who spent more than 5,730 days on  
12 State active duty missions, including winter storm and hurricane  
13 response and other domestic operations; and

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

17 WHEREAS, With approximately 36,750 individual deployments  
18 since September 11, 2001, the Pennsylvania National Guard is one  
19 of the busiest and most heavily deployed National Guards in the  
20 United States; and

21 WHEREAS, The continued support of the General Assembly  
22 remains critical to the success of the Pennsylvania National  
23 Guard; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate May 23, 2018, as  
25 "National Guard Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the men and women of our  
27 armed forces for their dedicated service to this Commonwealth  
28 and this nation and commend them for the outstanding performance  
29 of their duties around the world, in the Global War on Terror  
30 and in response to natural disasters; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the Senate give thanks for the Pennsylvania  
2 National Guard and the service of generations of soldiers and  
3 airmen from across Pennsylvania from our days as a proprietary  
4 colony to the great Commonwealth we are today; and be it further

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