

Senate Resolution 439

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Rhett of the 33rd, Payne of the 54th, Kennedy of the 18th, Anderson of the 43rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 25, 2024, as National Guard Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense provides ready and relevant military forces
4 to the governor to respond to state emergencies and to combatant commanders to defend our
5 nation; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense is headquartered at the Clay National Guard
7 Center in Marietta, Georgia, and it includes the Georgia Army National Guard, the Georgia
8 Air National Guard, and the Georgia State Defense Force; and

9 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense consists of more than 15,000 members,
10 including 11,000 army national guard soldiers; 2,900 air national guard airmen; 400 state
11 defense force volunteers; and 500 state employees; and

12 WHEREAS, the Georgia Army National Guard is the sixth largest in the nation, trains in 70
13 hometown armories and regional facilities in 55 counties across the state, and includes
14 combat, combat support, and combat service support units; and

15 WHEREAS, the Georgia Army National Guard is organized into five major subordinate
16 commands, which are the Macon-based 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team; the 648th
17 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Fort Moore; and the 78th Troop Command, 78th
18 Aviation Troop Command, and 201st Regional Support Group at the Clay National Guard
19 Center in Marietta; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia Air National Guard is the air power component of the State of
21 Georgia consisting of the 116th Air Control Wing in Warner Robins, the 165th Airlift Wing
22 and Air Dominance Center in Savannah, and six additional squadrons throughout Georgia
23 as well as playing an active role in supporting combatant commanders and Georgia's
24 emergency response; and

25 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Defense Force is a wholly-volunteer unit of the Georgia
26 Department of Defense that responds to emergencies and other significant events under
27 direction of the governor and the adjutant general, notably assisting with the 2023
28 commemorations of the life of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter; and

29 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard has deployed more than 30,000 soldiers and airmen
30 throughout all geographic combatant commands since September 11, 2001; maintained a
31 steady overseas presence in support of contingency operations; maintained state partnerships
32 with the Country of Georgia and Republic of Argentina; and provided defense support to
33 civil authorities within the State of Georgia due to winter storms, hurricanes, COVID-19, and
34 civil unrest; and

35 WHEREAS, from 1733 to 2023, the Georgia National Guard has continued the tradition of
36 selfless service from the first "citizens muster" by Lord James Oglethorpe through service
37 in two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, and the Global War on Terror, safeguarding citizens

38 of foreign nations while preserving the freedoms cherished by the citizens of the United
39 States of America; and

40 WHEREAS, the selfless and heroic actions of the Georgia National Guard stand as an
41 example of service to state and nation, which makes it fitting and proper that the outstanding
42 accomplishments of these remarkable and distinguished Georgians be appropriately
43 recognized.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
45 recognize January 25, 2024, as National Guard Day at the state capitol and commend the
46 men and women of the Georgia National Guard for their strength, leadership, courage, and
47 selfless service.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
49 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
50 press.