
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 159 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY REGAN, IOVINO, ARGALL, AUMENT, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA,
BLAKE, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, BROOKS, BROWNE, COLLETT, COSTA,
DINNIMAN, FARNESE, FOLMER, FONTANA, GORDNER, HUGHES,
HUTCHINSON, KILLION, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-
HILL, SANTARSIERO, SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE, VOGEL, J. WARD,
L. WILLIAMS AND YAW, JUNE 12, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 12, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 12, 2019, as "National Guard Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 1747, Benjamin Franklin organized the Associators
4 of 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 Act, 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 264 years of cooperation and support from the
9 General Assembly for the Pennsylvania Militia, the Pennsylvania
10 National Guard; and the soldiers and airmen who proudly serve
11 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 at home;
15 and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Approximately 3,621 Pennsylvania National Guard
22 members serve in a full-time capacity; and

23 WHEREAS, The remaining 18,390 Pennsylvania National Guard
24 members serve as traditional part-time members who train while
25 pursuing civilian education or careers; and

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

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

30 WHEREAS, The 213th Regional Support Group is the Pennsylvania

1 National Guard's second major army unit that handles combat
2 support missions, including transportation, finance and
3 personnel services; and

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

9 WHEREAS, For the first time, all three Pennsylvania National
10 Guard wings have received Outstanding Unit Awards during the
11 same awards cycle; and

12 WHEREAS, In times of war, national or state emergency, or in
13 support of any military operation worldwide, the President of
14 the United States may mobilize units of the National Guard into
15 active Federal service; and

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

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

24 WHEREAS, CJTF has provided trained personnel and specialized
25 equipment to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in
26 disposing of drugs and the fight against the use of illegal
27 drugs; and

28 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania National Guard members serve as role
29 models as well as community volunteers and civic leaders
30 throughout this Commonwealth; and

1 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard's outstanding
2 performance was on display in 2018 when more than 1,479 soldiers
3 and airmen provided support for Hurricane Florence and Winter
4 Storms Toby, Quinn and Riley as well as three separate flooding
5 events; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2019, almost 600 Pennsylvania National Guard
7 members responded to Winter Storm Harper; and

8 WHEREAS, Currently, the Pennsylvania National Guard has
9 deployed more than 1,039 members to Afghanistan, Poland and the
10 Middle East with additional deployments anticipated; and

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

14 WHEREAS, With approximately 40,593 individual deployments
15 since September 11, 2001, the Pennsylvania National Guard is one
16 of the busiest and most heavily deployed National Guards in the
17 United States; and

18 WHEREAS, This year's theme, "Guardsmen and Their Families -
19 Serving Pennsylvania," pays tribute to our citizens, soldiers
20 and airmen of the Pennsylvania National Guard; and

21 WHEREAS, We honor these men and women for their dedication
22 and service that has led to the distinction of Pennsylvania
23 having one of the most successful National Guards across our
24 great country; and

25 WHEREAS, The continued support of the General Assembly
26 remains critical to the success of the Pennsylvania National
27 Guard; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate June 12, 2019, as
29 "National Guard Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the men and women of our

1 armed forces for their dedicated service to this Commonwealth
2 and this nation and commend them for the outstanding performance
3 of their duties around the world, in the Global War on Terror
4 and in response to natural disasters; and be it further

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

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