

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 286 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY GABLER, MAKO, MICCARELLI, BARBIN, BIZZARRO, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CHARLTON, CORBIN, COX, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, DUSH, ENGLISH, EVERETT, FREEMAN, HAHN, A. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, JAMES, KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MALONEY, MARSICO, MATZIE, MEHAFFIE, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MILNE, MURT, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, QUIGLEY, RAPP, READSHAW, RYAN, SAINATO, SANKEY, SCHLOSSBERG, SOLOMON, SONNEY, STURLA, TOOHIL, WARD AND WATSON, APRIL 25, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 25, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 26, 2017, 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

1 of the Province of Pennsylvania, meeting in General Assembly,
2 passed this Commonwealth's first militia law on November 25,
3 1755; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, The remaining 16,400 Pennsylvania National Guard
26 members serve as traditional part-time members who train while
27 pursuing civilian education or careers; and

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

30 WHEREAS, The 28th Infantry Division is the oldest

1 continuously serving division in the United States Army; and

2 WHEREAS, The 213th Regional Support Group is the Pennsylvania
3 National Guard's second major army unit that handles combat
4 support missions, including transportation, finance and
5 personnel services; and

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, CJTF has provided trained personnel and specialized
24 equipment to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in
25 disposing of more than 45,296 pounds of drugs with an estimated
26 street value of more than \$22.6 million in the fight against the
27 use of illegal 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 2015 when more than 6,000 soldiers
3 and airmen provided support for Pope Francis' visit to the City
4 of Philadelphia, the largest National Special Security Event in
5 United States history; and

6 WHEREAS, In the last five years, the Pennsylvania National
7 Guard activated roughly 13,200 troops who spent more than 53,597
8 days on State active duty missions, including winter storm and
9 hurricane response and other domestic operations; and

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

13 WHEREAS, With approximately 36,000 individual deployments
14 since September 11, 2001, the Pennsylvania National Guard is one
15 of the busiest and most heavily deployed National Guards in the
16 United States; and

17 WHEREAS, The continued support of the General Assembly
18 remains critical to the success of the Pennsylvania National
19 Guard; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April
21 26, 2017, as "National Guard Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
22 further

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

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives give thanks for
30 the Pennsylvania National Guard and the service of generations

1 of soldiers and airmen from across Pennsylvania from our days as
2 a proprietary colony to the great Commonwealth we are today; and
3 be it further

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