

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 301 Session of  
2024

---

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, BARTOLOTTA, BROOKS, BROWN, CULVER,  
FONTANA, HUGHES, HUTCHINSON, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, ROTHMAN AND  
J. WARD, MAY 29, 2024

---

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MAY 29, 2024

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 4, 2024, as "National Guard and Veterans Day"  
2 in 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 are 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, In response 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,  
17 1755; and

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

6       WHEREAS, Enactment of the Militia Act marked the beginning of  
7       269 years of cooperation and support from the General Assembly  
8       for the Pennsylvania Militia, the Pennsylvania National Guard  
9       and the soldiers and airmen who proudly serve this Commonwealth  
10      and this nation; and

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

15      WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard force reaches from  
16      the Joint Force Headquarters located at Fort Indiantown Gap,  
17      Lebanon County, to communities across this Commonwealth with 86  
18      readiness centers, 17 maintenance facilities, 2 Army aviation  
19      support facilities and 4 Air National Guard facilities; and

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

22      WHEREAS, Approximately 3,800 Pennsylvania National Guard  
23      members serve in a full-time capacity; and

24      WHEREAS, The remaining 17,000 Pennsylvania National Guard  
25      members serve as traditional part-time members who train while  
26      pursuing civilian education or careers; and

27      WHEREAS, For the third time in the last four years, Fort  
28      Indiantown Gap was the busiest National Guard training center in  
29      the country; and

30      WHEREAS, During fiscal year 2023, which ended September 30,

1 the installation hosted 139,391 personnel for a total of 858,523  
2 man-days; and

3 WHEREAS, Man-days are a computation of the number of  
4 personnel multiplied by the number of days they trained on post;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The 166th regiment was the number one Army National  
7 Guard Training Institute in the country during fiscal year 2023  
8 with a training throughput of 6,179 and economic impact of \$27.5  
9 million to the Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, The 166th regiment trained 27,907 Army Service  
11 Members from fiscal years 2018 through 2023; and

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

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

16 WHEREAS, The 28th Infantry Division is celebrating the 80th  
17 anniversary of their unmatched valor in the Hürtgen Forest,  
18 where they disrupted the German counter-offensive during the  
19 Battle of the Bulge and played a critical role in liberating  
20 Colmar, France, from the grip of the German military; and

21 WHEREAS, The 213th Regional Support Group is the Pennsylvania  
22 National Guard's second major army unit that handles combat  
23 support missions, including transportation, finance and  
24 personnel services; and

25 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Air National Guard is comprised of  
26 the 111th Attack Wing for air support and MQ-9 Reaper ground  
27 control, the 171st Air Refueling Wing for worldwide aerial  
28 refueling and the 193rd Special Operations Wing for special  
29 operation missions; and

30 WHEREAS, In times of war, national or state emergency or in

1 support of any military operation worldwide, the President of  
2 the United States may mobilize units of the National Guard into  
3 active Federal service; and

4 WHEREAS, The active Federal service of the Pennsylvania  
5 National Guard has included engagement in every conflict this  
6 nation has faced, from the Revolutionary War through the Global  
7 War on Terror, and in peacekeeping missions around the globe;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, In peacetime, the Pennsylvania National Guard offers  
10 broad support to the civilian community through the Pennsylvania  
11 Counterdrug Joint Task Force (CJTF); and

12 WHEREAS, CJTF provides trained personnel and specialized  
13 equipment to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in  
14 the fight against the use of illegal drugs and disposal of  
15 drugs; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania National Guard members serve as role  
17 models, community volunteers and civic leaders throughout this  
18 Commonwealth; and

19 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard's outstanding  
20 performance was on display in 2023 when 107 soldiers deployed to  
21 the Southwest border, supporting the United States Border Patrol  
22 in domestic operations; and

23 WHEREAS, During this time, the National Guard oversaw  
24 domestic operations conducted by more than 3,500 National  
25 Guardsmen from 16 states, covering approximately 2,000 miles of  
26 United States and Mexico border; and

27 WHEREAS, In 2023-2024, the Pennsylvania National Guard  
28 responded to eight requests for support through the Pennsylvania  
29 Emergency Management Agency, responding to wildfires in  
30 Pennsylvania and Maui, Hawaii; Operation Sudden Torrent where

1 aviation assets responded to flooding in southeastern  
2 Pennsylvania; as well as the deployment of the Pennsylvania  
3 National Guard Cyber Team to support Bucks County following a  
4 cyber hacking on their systems; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2023, approximately 2,000 Pennsylvania National  
6 Guard members deployed in support of ongoing contingency and  
7 force protection operations in Kuwait, the Horn of Africa,  
8 Romania and other locations; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2023, the Pennsylvania National Guard celebrated  
10 the 30-year anniversary of its partnership with Lithuania; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1993, Pennsylvania was one of the first three  
12 states to participate in the State Partnership for Peace Program  
13 and since its inception, the Pennsylvania National Guard has  
14 completed more than 750 engagements with Lithuania, including  
15 joint/combined deployments to Afghanistan; and

16 WHEREAS, The 193rd Special Operations Wing of the  
17 Pennsylvania Air National Guard was awarded the coveted  
18 Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque by the National Guard  
19 Association in 2022; and

20 WHEREAS, The 111th Attack Wing, Pennsylvania Air National  
21 Guard received the Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award for  
22 2022; and

23 WHEREAS, Wing personnel were graded 100% effective overall in  
24 all major areas in the Unit Effectiveness Inspection,  
25 effectively managing and allocating all Higher Headquarters  
26 resources, improving the unit and executing the mission while  
27 sustaining combat operation; and

28 WHEREAS, With nearly 700,000 veterans, this Commonwealth has  
29 one of the largest veteran populations in the country; and

30 WHEREAS, Veterans thrive in their community, helping and

1 motivating the younger generations; and

2 WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve the Commonwealth through  
3 government service, entrepreneurship and industry and have  
4 higher workforce participation than nonveterans; and

5 WHEREAS, These devoted individuals who have served in the  
6 armed forces of the United States provide living proof that  
7 bravery is not a quality nor an end in itself, but rather can be  
8 a brief moment or perhaps a lifetime of selfless service; and

9 WHEREAS, Families and friends of wounded and injured veterans  
10 are called upon to provide care and these hidden heroes also  
11 serve our Commonwealth with their sacrifices; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania leads the nation in serving veterans  
13 with the innovative PA VETConnect program, recipient of the  
14 Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award from the United  
15 States Department of Veterans Affairs; and

16 WHEREAS, PA VETConnect is a community-based outreach  
17 initiative to build relationships and find resources that will  
18 assist veterans and their advocates; and

19 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard continues to evolve  
20 with the Keystone State Challenge Academy (KSCA) at Fort  
21 Indiantown Gap, serving high school students between 16 and 18  
22 years of age struggling in traditional school settings; and

23 WHEREAS, Since its start in July 2022, KSCA has graduated 60  
24 students from 44 cities across 24 counties; and

25 WHEREAS, Of these, 20 cadets earned their GED, and others  
26 averaged 43.4 credits through credit recovery, enabling them to  
27 graduate or return to high school; and

28 WHEREAS, Additionally, 25 cadets resumed high school, 5  
29 enrolled in college, 5 joined the armed services and 16 secured  
30 employment; and

1       WHEREAS, This year's theme, "Together We Serve: Past,  
2 Present, Future" pays tribute to our citizens, soldiers and  
3 airmen of the Pennsylvania National Guard, veterans of all  
4 services and components who have served and their families; and

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

9       WHEREAS, The continued support of the General Assembly  
10 remains critical to the success of the Pennsylvania National  
11 Guard; therefore be it

12       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate June 4, 2024, as  
13 "National Guard and Veterans Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
14 further

15       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the men and women of our  
16 armed forces for their dedicated service to this Commonwealth  
17 and this nation and commend them for the outstanding performance  
18 of their duties around the world and in response to domestic  
19 emergencies; and be it further

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

24       RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth is committed to honoring and  
25 caring for veterans and their families as key members of our  
26 communities who often continue to serve and contribute to the  
27 State; and be it further

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