

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED _____, 20 _____

BY _____, **SEAT**
NO. _____

BY _____, **SEAT**
NO. _____

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NO. _____

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NO. _____

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NO. _____

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 254th anniversary of Pennsylvania's first
2 militia law and designating March 10, 2009, as "National
3 Guard Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, In 1747 Benjamin Franklin organized the Associators
5 in Philadelphia; and

6 WHEREAS, Units of today's Pennsylvania National Guard can
7 trace their lineage to the original Associators; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1755 the General Assembly of the Province of
9 Pennsylvania received a great number of petitions from the
10 counties of the province "setting forth that the petitioners
11 were very willing to defend themselves and their country and
12 desirous of being formed into regular bodies for that purpose,
13 instructed and disciplined under proper officers with suitable
14 and legal authority"; and

15 WHEREAS, Responding to these petitions, the representatives
16 of the Province of Pennsylvania, meeting in General Assembly,
17 passed Pennsylvania's first militia law on November 25, 1755;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The militia law, passed "for the better ordering and

1 regulating such as are willing and desirous to be united for
2 military purposes within this province," created the volunteer
3 militia and laid the legal foundation for the militia and the
4 Pennsylvania National Guard; and

5 WHEREAS, Enactment of the act of November 25, 1755, marked
6 the beginning of 254 years of cooperation and support from the
7 General Assembly for the Pennsylvania militia, the Pennsylvania
8 National Guard and the soldiers and airmen who proudly serve
9 this Commonwealth and this nation; and

10 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard, the largest army
11 national guard in the United States and fourth largest air
12 national guard in the United States, has experienced historic
13 mobilization and deployment rates and has provided volunteers to
14 critical missions around the world; and

15 WHEREAS, In war and in peace, Pennsylvania National Guard
16 units have taken part in every conflict America has faced, from
17 the Revolutionary War through Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well
18 as ongoing peacekeeping missions around the globe; and

19 WHEREAS, Since September 11, 2001, more than 17,000 of this
20 Commonwealth's soldiers and airmen have deployed in support of
21 the Global War on Terror; and

22 WHEREAS, In times of national disaster, the Pennsylvania
23 National Guard responds to floods, blizzards and other domestic
24 emergencies, including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, when 2,500
25 Commonwealth soldiers and airmen were deployed to the Gulf Coast
26 within a few days of the storms to provide communications,
27 humanitarian assistance and force protection; and

28 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard is one of this
29 Commonwealth's top ten employers with more than 2,400 employees
30 and approximately 19,000 National Guard members in more than 90

1 communities Statewide; and

2 WHEREAS, The continued support of the General Assembly has
3 been, and is today, critical to the success of the Pennsylvania
4 National Guard; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Senate celebrate Pennsylvania's first
6 militia law and designate March 10, 2009, as "National Guard
7 Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate ask all Pennsylvanians to recognize
9 the Pennsylvania National Guard and the service of generations
10 of soldiers and airmen with the utmost gratitude; and be it
11 further

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