

By Senator Altman

16-01886-16

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution honoring the Florida National Guard and  
3 recognizing January 12, 2016, as "Florida National  
4 Guard Day."

5  
6 WHEREAS, as the military arm of the Governor and the people  
7 of this state, the Florida National Guard stands ready to  
8 respond immediately to a call from the Governor in times of  
9 crisis or emergency, and

10 WHEREAS, the Florida National Guard traces its lineage back  
11 to 1565 when the first muster of a civilian militia took place  
12 in St. Augustine, making Florida's militia the oldest in the  
13 nation, and

14 WHEREAS, the Florida National Guard today stands strong  
15 with approximately 12,000 of the best soldiers and airmen this  
16 nation has ever known, and

17 WHEREAS, the men and women of the Florida National Guard  
18 and their families willingly make sacrifices during times of  
19 crisis, including hurricanes, fires, floods, and other natural  
20 disasters, and while serving domestically and around the world  
21 in various military operations, and

22 WHEREAS, more than 18,400 men and women of the Florida  
23 National Guard have answered the call to federal active duty,  
24 without reservation, since the attack on our nation on September  
25 11, 2001, and

26 WHEREAS, these dedicated men and women have served with  
27 distinction and honor during Operation Enduring Freedom,  
28 Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn and continue to  
29 serve in Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Freedom's Sentinel,  
30 Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Observant Compass,  
31 which take these dedicated National Guard members far from their  
32 families and friends while they ensure our safety at home, and

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33 WHEREAS, the employers of members of the Florida National  
34 Guard have made significant sacrifices in conducting business  
35 during the absence of these employees, ensuring that they will  
36 have jobs when they return home, and

37 WHEREAS, the men and women of the Florida National Guard  
38 are involved in hundreds of community service projects across  
39 the state each day while preparing for their federal duty,  
40 protecting the citizens of this state during emergencies, and  
41 contributing to local programs that add value to the quality of  
42 life in the United States of America and this state, NOW,  
43 THEREFORE,

44  
45 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

46  
47 That in honor of the significant contributions and  
48 consistent readiness of the Florida National Guard, and in  
49 grateful acknowledgment of the faithful service of its dedicated  
50 soldiers and airmen, January 12, 2016, is recognized as "Florida  
51 National Guard Day."

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
53 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Major General  
54 Michael A. Calhoun, Adjutant General of Florida, as a tangible  
55 token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.