

By Senator Stargel

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Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring the Florida National Guard and designating March 21, 2017, as "Florida National Guard Day."

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

WHEREAS, the Florida National Guard traces its lineage back more than 450 years to 1565 when the first muster of a civilian militia took place in St. Augustine, making Florida's militia the oldest in the nation, and

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

WHEREAS, the men and women of the Florida National Guard and their families willingly make sacrifices during times of hurricanes, fires, floods, and other natural disasters, serving domestically and around the world in contingency operations, and

WHEREAS, more than 20,000 men and women of the Florida National Guard answered the call to federal active duty following the attack on our nation on September 11, 2001, and served with distinction and honor during Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn, and continue to serve in Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Observant Compass, which continue to take these dedicated guard members far from their families and friends while they ensure we are

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30 safe at home, and

31 WHEREAS, the employers of guard members and their families  
32 make significant sacrifices to conduct their businesses during  
33 the absence of these employees, while still providing a job for  
34 them when they return home, and

35 WHEREAS, the men and women of the Florida National Guard  
36 remain involved in hundreds of community service projects across  
37 the state while preparing for their federal duty, protecting the  
38 residents of this state during emergencies, and contributing to  
39 local programs, NOW, THEREFORE,

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41 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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43 That in honor of the significant contributions and  
44 consistent readiness of the Florida National Guard and to  
45 gratefully acknowledge the faithful service of its dedicated  
46 soldiers and airmen, March 21, 2017, is recognized as "Florida  
47 National Guard Day."