

By Senator Gibson

6-03364A-18

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Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring the Florida National Guard and recognizing February 27, 2018, 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 to immediately respond to a call to duty in times of crisis or emergency, and

WHEREAS, the Florida National Guard traces its lineage back 453 years to 1565 when the first muster of a civilian militia took place in Saint Augustine, making Florida's militia the oldest in the nation, and

WHEREAS, today's Florida National Guard stands strong with approximately 11,500 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 7,500 Florida National Guard soldiers and airmen were activated in response to Hurricane Irma and helped establish more than 350 shelters and distribute more than 6 million liters of water and nearly 5 million meals to displaced residents during response and recovery operations, and

WHEREAS, more than 20,000 men and women of the Florida National Guard have answered the call to federal active duty without reservation in the years following the September 11, 2001, attacks on our nation and served with distinction and

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30 honor during Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi  
31 Freedom, and Operation New Dawn, and they continue to serve in  
32 Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation  
33 Inherent Resolve, and Operation Observant Compass, all of which  
34 have taken these dedicated soldiers and airmen far from their  
35 families and friends while they ensure that we are safe at home,  
36 and

37 WHEREAS, the employers of Florida National Guard members  
38 make significant sacrifices during Florida National Guard  
39 deployments, ensuring these soldiers and airmen may return to  
40 their jobs upon their return home, and

41 WHEREAS, the men and women of the Florida National Guard  
42 remain involved in hundreds of community service projects across  
43 the state each day while preparing for their federal duty,  
44 protecting the citizens of this state during emergencies, and  
45 supporting local programs that contribute to the quality of life  
46 we enjoy in this state and the United States, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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50 That, in honor of the significant contributions and  
51 consistent readiness of the Florida National Guard and in  
52 grateful acknowledgment of the faithful service of its dedicated  
53 soldiers and airmen, February 27, 2018, is recognized as  
54 "Florida National Guard Day."