

House Resolution 853

By: Representatives Birdsong of the 123rd and Purcell of the 147th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the approximately 12,000 men and women of the Georgia Army and Air
2 National Guard and State Defense Force and declaring National Guard Day in Georgia; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, there are approximately 12,000 Georgians who are members of the Georgia
5 Army and Air National Guard and State Defense Force providing dedicated service to this
6 state and the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, since its inception in 1773, the Georgia National Guard has performed a
8 significant role in the defense of the colony, state and nation; and

9 WHEREAS, throughout history and in every war that Americans have been called upon to
10 defend our nation's liberties and freedoms, the men and women of the Georgia National
11 Guard have taken up arms to defend this nation, and many have given their lives to secure
12 the freedoms we hold dear today; and

13 WHEREAS, there is no greater example of the Georgia National Guard's patriotism,
14 professionalism and capabilities than when 1,200 members of Georgia's 48th Infantry
15 Brigade of the Georgia Army National Guard deployed for six months to
16 Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2001 as part of the NATO Peacekeeping mission in the Balkans; and

17 WHEREAS, in response to tragic events of September 11th, units of the Georgia Air and
18 Army National Guard were among the first to be mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle,
19 homeland defense, and Operation Enduring Freedom, the destruction of the worldwide
20 terrorist network, and

21 WHEREAS, members of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard now stand guard at
22 commercial airports across Georgia as a highly visible presence to deter terrorism and
23 safeguard airport security; and

1 WHEREAS, the National Guard maintains a constant vigil on the safety and security of all
2 Georgians through specially trained and equipped units such as the 4th Civil Response Team
3 that can respond to incidences of weapons of mass destruction, and the Counter Drug and
4 Drug Demand Reduction program that continuously fights America's War on Drugs; and

5 WHEREAS, the National Guard is always there to assist its fellow Georgians during
6 hurricanes, tornadoes and floods; and

7 WHEREAS, through its highly successful Youth Challenge Academy where many Georgia's
8 youth have found a second chance to succeed; and

9 WHEREAS, the future of the Georgia National Guard rests upon Georgians in uniform who
10 embody the core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self; and Excellence in All We Do.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
12 the members of this body commend the Georgia National Guard and declare January 29,
13 2002, to be National Guard Day in Georgia.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
15 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the public and the press.