

Senate Resolution 409

By: Senators Harp of the 16th, Tolleson of the 18th, Moody of the 27th, Squires of the 5th, Crotts of the 17th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the men and women of the Georgia National Guard and declaring National
- 2 Guard Day in Georgia; and for other purposes.

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

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

- 9 WHEREAS, more than 1,300 Georgia National Guardsmen have been mobilized for possible
- 10 action for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom; of this number, approximately
- 11 750 are expected to deploy to Southwest Asia and more than 550 are scheduled to remain in
- 12 the United States for homeland security; and

- 13 WHEREAS, more than 130 members of the Monroe based 178th Military Police Company
- 14 of the Georgia Army National Guard deployed for six months to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to
- 15 provide security for the Taliban and Al Qaida detainees; seven weeks after returning from
- 16 Cuba, the unit has been called again to duty; and

- 17 WHEREAS, the Georgia Air National Guard's 224th Joint Communications Support
- 18 Squadron from Brunswick has remained deployed since shortly after the events of September
- 19 11, 2001; and

- 20 WHEREAS, Georgia's 122nd Rear Operations Center was the first National Guard unit to
- 21 deploy to Afghanistan in 2001, and they managed all humanitarian aid to the war-torn
- 22 country; the unit has been mobilized again for possible operations abroad; and

1 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard maintains a constant vigil on the safety and security
2 of all Georgians through specially trained and equipped units such as the 4th Civil Response
3 Team that can respond to incidences of weapons of mass destruction; and

4 WHEREAS, Georgia's Counterdrug Task Force continues to fight the drug war in Georgia
5 and was called on by local authorities this year to demolish more than 15 identified drug
6 houses throughout the state; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia's Youth Challenge Academy, with campuses at Fort Stewart and Fort
8 Gordon, graduated more than 400 "at-risk" teens during 2002, and more than 2,500 youth
9 have been given a second chance to succeed because of Georgia's Youth Challenge
10 Academy; and

11 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense was the first state agency to win the
12 prestigious Oglethorpe Award in 2002 for organizational excellence; and

13 WHEREAS, in recognition of the Georgia National Guard's focus on people, Georgia
14 became the first state in the nation to be awarded the Excellence in Diversity Award by the
15 National Guard Bureau and CMSgt Percy L. Freeman of the 116th Air Control Wing was
16 presented the nation's top individual award for Excellence in Diversity; and

17 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Defense Force, the third leg of the Georgia Department of
18 Defense, continues to provide trained volunteers to backfill in critical areas for Georgia
19 National Guardsmen called to active duty; and

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

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
23 commend the Georgia National Guard and declare April 15, 2003, to be National Guard Day
24 in Georgia.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
26 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the public and the press.