

Senate Resolution 688

By: Senators Dugan of the 30th, Hill of the 4th, Hill of the 6th, Harbison of the 15th, Shafer of the 48th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 25, 2016, as National Guard Day at the capitol; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense (GA DOD) provides ready and relevant
3 military forces to the Combatant Commanders and, with the consent of the Governor,
4 provides command and control capabilities to support homeland defense and defense support
5 to civil authorities; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense is located at the Clay National Guard
7 Center in Marietta, Georgia, and includes the Georgia Army National Guard, the Georgia Air
8 National Guard, and the Georgia State Defense Force; and

9 WHEREAS, the GA DOD employees over 11,050 Army National Guard Soldiers, 2,891 Air
10 National Guard Airmen, 583 State Defense Force members, and 586 state employees; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is the eighth largest in the nation with training
12 in more than 68 hometown armories and regional facilities across the state, and it includes
13 combat, combat support, and combat service support units; and

14 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is organized into six major subordinate
15 commands which are the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 78th Troop Command,
16 the 78th Aviation Troop Command, the 201st Regional Support Group at Clay National
17 Guard Center in Marietta, the 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade at the Cumming
18 Readiness Center, and the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Fort Benning in
19 Columbus; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia Air National Guard is the air power component of the State of
21 Georgia with 2,891 airmen and officers assigned to the 116th Air Control Wing in Warner
22 Robins, the 165th Airlift Wing in Savannah, and seven geographically separated units

23 throughout Georgia; and they play an active role in supporting Georgia's homeland defense
24 posture, providing airlift, engineering, and communications resources and abilities; and

25 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Defense Force is a volunteer unit of the Georgia Department
26 of Defense, serving in support of the national and state constitutions under the direction of
27 the Governor and the adjutant general of Georgia; and

28 WHEREAS, in 2015 alone, the Georgia National Guard deployed more than 600 soldiers and
29 airmen to the strategic locations of Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq, Egypt, Qatar, Djibouti, the
30 Republic of Georgia, South Korea, Latvia, the Pacific Rim, the Horn of Africa, and the
31 Southwest Border and continues to support operations against domestic threats within the
32 State of Georgia; and

33 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard also operated one of the most robust and successful
34 Youth Challenge Academy (YCA) programs in the United States at Fort Stewart and Fort
35 Gordon, Georgia, where to date over 13,847 high school dropouts have graduated and have
36 been given opportunities to receive a high school diploma or general educational
37 development (GED) diploma; in addition, Georgia's YCA has been instrumental in helping
38 these young men and women secure a lasting future through assistance in employment
39 opportunities for the recent graduates; and

40 WHEREAS, the selfless and heroic actions of the Georgia National Guard stand as a shining
41 tribute to the strength of the human spirit, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the
42 outstanding accomplishments of these remarkable and distinguished Georgians be
43 appropriately recognized.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
45 commend the men and women of the Georgia National Guard for their strength, leadership,
46 and courage in their willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves and
47 recognize January 25, 2016, as National Guard Day in the capitol.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
49 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
50 National Guard.