

## House Resolution 173

By: Representatives Belton of the 112<sup>th</sup>, Coomer of the 14<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 134<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 13, 2017, as National Guard Day at the capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

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

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

10 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense employs over 10,908 Army National Guard  
11 Soldiers, 2,896 Air National Guard Airmen, 509 State Defense Force members, and 632 state  
12 employees; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is the eighth largest in the nation composed of  
14 combat, combat support, and combat service support units training in nearly 70 hometown  
15 armories and regional facilities across the state; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard is organized into five major subordinate  
17 commands which are the Macon-based 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 78th Troop  
18 Command, the 78th Aviation Troop Command, the 201st Regional Support Group at Clay  
19 National Guard Center in Marietta, and the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Fort  
20 Benning in Columbus; and

21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Air National Guard is the air power component of the State of  
22 Georgia with 2,896 airmen and officers assigned to the 116th Air Control Wing in Warner  
23 Robins, the 165th Airlift Wing in Savannah, and seven geographically separated units

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

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

29 WHEREAS, in 2016 alone, the Georgia National Guard deployed more than 600 soldiers and  
30 airmen to every geographic command; and

31 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard also operated one of the most robust and successful  
32 Youth Challenge Academy programs in the United States at Fort Stewart and Fort Gordon,  
33 Georgia, where to date over 14,000 high school dropouts have graduated and have been  
34 given opportunities to receive a high school diploma or general educational development  
35 (GED) diploma; in addition, Georgia's Youth Challenge Academy has been instrumental in  
36 helping these young men and women secure a lasting future through assistance in  
37 employment opportunities for the recent graduates; and

38 WHEREAS, following more than two decades of partnership between Argentina and the  
39 State of Georgia, the National Guard Bureau selected the Georgia Department of Defense to  
40 serve as a state partner to Argentina; and

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

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
46 the members of this body commend the men and women of the Georgia National Guard for  
47 their strength, leadership, and courage in their willingness to find meaning in something  
48 greater than themselves and recognize February 13, 2017, as National Guard Day at the  
49 capitol.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
51 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
52 Georgia National Guard.