

Senate Resolution 701

By: Senators Payne of the 54th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Cowser of the 46th, Watson of the 1st, Anderson of the 24th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 11, 2026, as National Guard Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense provides ready and relevant military forces
4 to combatant commanders and provides emergency response capabilities to support
5 Homeland Defense and Defense Support to Civil Authorities; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Defense is headquartered 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 Georgia Department of Defense consists of more than 11,600 Army
10 National Guard Soldiers, 2,900 Air National Guard Airmen, 500 State Defense Force
11 volunteers, and nearly 500 state employees; and

12 WHEREAS, The Georgia's Army National Guard is the sixth largest in the nation, training
13 in nearly 67 hometown armories and regional facilities in nearly 60 counties across the state,
14 and includes combat, combat support, and combat service support units; and

15 WHEREAS, Georgia's Army National Guard was recognized as the best National Guard
16 Command by the Association of the United States Army in 2025, and is organized into five
17 major subordinate commands, the Macon-based 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team; the
18 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Fort Benning; and the 78th Troop Command, 78th
19 Aviation Troop Command, and 201st Regional Support Group at the Clay National Guard
20 Center in Marietta; and

21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Air National Guard is the air power component of the State of
22 Georgia with airmen and officers assigned to the 116th Air Control Wing in Warner Robins,
23 the 165th Airlift Wing in Savannah, and units throughout Georgia, playing an active role in
24 supporting combatant commanders and Georgia's homeland defense posture, with 116th and
25 165th conversions to Remotely Piloted Aircraft - Integration and the new C-130J,
26 respectively; and

27 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Defense Force is a volunteer unit of the Georgia Department
28 of Defense, serving in support of the National Guard under direction of the Governor and
29 Adjutant General, notably during Exercise Patriot South, Vigilant Guard, and memorial
30 services for President Carter; and

31 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard has deployed more than 35,000 Soldiers and
32 Airmen throughout all geographic combatant commands since September 11, 2001;
33 maintained a steady overseas presence in support of contingency operations, and maintained
34 state partnerships with the Country of Georgia and Republic of Argentina while training and
35 preparing to support homeland response missions in the State of Georgia and southeast
36 United States; and

37 WHEREAS, in 2025, the Georgia National Guard successfully supported missions in support
38 of the Department of Homeland Security on the southern border, and in the nation's capital
39 as part of Joint Task Force-DC; and

40 WHEREAS, the selfless actions of the men and women of the Georgia Department of
41 Defense and its components at home and abroad in 2025 stands as an example of putting
42 service before self, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding
43 accomplishments of these remarkable and distinguished Georgians be appropriately
44 recognized.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
46 recognize February 11, 2026, as National Guard Day at the state capitol and commend the
47 men and women of the Georgia National Guard for their strength, leadership, courage and
48 selfless service.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
50 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
51 press.