



SPONSOR: Sen. Venables
On behalf of all Senators & All
Representatives

DELAWARE STATE SENATE

140th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

HONORING THE GRADUATES AND ALUMNI OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE UPON THE OCCASION OF A VISIT TO LEGISLATIVE HALL OF A DISTINGUISHED DELEGATION FROM THIS GROUP, FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE FIRST STATE AND TO THE NATION.

(Two-Thirds of all members elected to each house thereof concurring therein):

1 WHEREAS, the State of Delaware has been blessed throughout its history with an outstanding
2 force of part-time, volunteer citizen soldiers who have been willing to come forward to defend and assist
3 their fellow Delawareans in times of war, civil strife and natural disaster; and

4 WHEREAS, the Delaware National Guard and its direct forerunner, the Delaware Militia, are
5 among the oldest institutions of state government, tracing their origin to the 31st Day of August, 1655,
6 when an official of the Swedish colony, which then encompassed the area now known as New Castle
7 County, went from house to house to raise volunteers to help defend the colony from an invading Dutch
8 force; and

9 WHEREAS, while the Swedish defenders were unsuccessful in their struggle, they did institute
10 the tradition of the volunteer citizen-soldier which has served the State of Delaware so well over the
11 succeeding 344 years; and

12 WHEREAS, the citizen militia has come forward to serve in every armed conflict in the history
13 of the Delaware State and the colony which preceded it and defend the inhabitants from the attacks of
14 marauding pirates along our ocean and bay coasts; and

15 WHEREAS, during the time in which “The Three Lower Counties Upon Delaware” were under
16 the control of the Quaker William Penn and his sons, proved impossible for the citizens of the coastal

17 areas afflicted by these pirate raids to prevail upon the peace-loving Quakers in power to establish a
18 standing military force, causing them to resort to their own devices, using volunteers raised from among
19 their own number for protection; and

20 WHEREAS, this difference between the hard-pressed citizens of coastal Delaware and the
21 peaceful Quaker Pennsylvanians was one of a number of factors which served to convince Delawareans
22 that they needed to cut their links to the colony of Pennsylvania and form their own independent
23 legislative body, an act which took place in 1704 and led to Delaware's later establishment as a separate
24 state in 1776; and

25 WHEREAS, Delaware's militia was formally organized later in the 18th century and served with
26 distinction throughout the American Revolution under such leaders as Generals Caesar Rodney of Kent
27 and John Dagworthy of Sussex; and

28 WHEREAS, the militia was once again on hand to defend their fellow citizens during the War of
29 1812, when it was called to Lewes to do battle against the British fleet; and

30 WHEREAS, the Delaware Militia served the First State again during the dark days of the Civil
31 War and, under federal authority, accompanied General John J. Pershing to the U.S.-Mexico border in
32 1916 to fight the rebel forces of Pancho Villa, who had dispatched raiding parties into American border
33 towns; and

34 WHEREAS, renamed the Delaware National Guard, Delaware's citizen soldiers served again
35 with distinction in federal service during both the First and Second World Wars; and

36 WHEREAS, Delaware National Guard members have served as well in all the conflicts in which
37 America has been involved since World War II; and

38 WHEREAS, the Delaware National Guard has given good and valuable service during times of
39 civil disobedience, such as the Wilmington riots of 1968, and during major natural disasters the
40 devastating coastal storm of March, 1962, after which the National Guard worked for three weeks to
41 assist their fellow citizens; and

42 WHEREAS, the Delaware National Guard embodies the finest traditions of our long history, with
43 citizens turning out to put their lives on the line in defense of their fellow citizens, time after time, decade

44 after decade, century after century, extending backwards through time to the very origins of our state in
45 an unbroken thread of distinguished service;

46 NOW, THEREFORE:

47 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 140th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
48 House of Representatives concurring therein, that the members do hereby pay tribute to the men and
49 women of the Delaware National Guard, past and present, upon the occasion of the visit to Legislative
50 Hall by a delegation of retired Delaware National Guard officers, and extend to this distinguished group
51 the heartfelt thanks of all Delawareans for their outstanding service, and that of their fellow members of
52 the National Guard, past and present.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the General Assembly do hereby welcome
54 Lieutenant General Clarence E. Atkinson, Chief Warrant Officer Two Ralph Baker, Major General
55 Woodrow D. Boyce, Brigadier General Donn D. Devine, Colonel Joseph J. DiAngelo, Colonel Paul J.
56 Gallagher, Major Glenn E. Huffer, Captain William H. Irwin, Major General Joseph M. Lank, Brigadier
57 General Kenneth C. Madden, Lieutenant Colonel John Marengo, Brigadier General James L. Marvel,
58 Colonel Eugene E. Miklasiewicz, Chief Warrant Officer Four Harper Moore, Chief Warrant Officer Four
59 Thomas I. Moore, Lieutenant Colonel Walter G. Powell, Chief Warrant Officer Four Charles S. Pritchard,
60 Colonel William F. Rhoads, Major Thomas Saffo, Brigadier General Earl E. Seppala, Colonel William A.
61 Smith, Brigadier General Phillip R. Tatnall, Colonel James B. Testerman, Brigadier General Layton E.
62 Timmons, Brigadier General Joshua T. West, Chief Warrant Officer Four Russell Williams, Jr.,
63 Lieutenant Colonel Tenney H. Wheatley, Jr., and Brigadier General C. Elliott Workman to our midst on
64 this Sixth Day of May, 1999.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Senate Concurrent Resolution be
66 presented to the aforementioned visitors upon its passage.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution pays homage to the generations of citizen soldiers who have served the First State and its predecessors and honors all those individuals who are members of the distinguished group known as the Graduates and Alumni of the National Guard (G.A.N.G.) upon the occasion of their visit to the Delaware General Assembly.