

GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD DAY

- WHEREAS: The Georgia militia and the Georgia National Guard, founded in 1773, have played significant roles in the defense of our nation and our state; and
- WHEREAS: More than 3,600 Georgia Army and Air National Guardsmen and women from some 28 Georgia hometowns have left their families, jobs and communities; they have been mobilized to support Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom and are serving around the world; and
- WHEREAS: The Georgia Air National Guard's 116th Air Control Wing and 165th Airlift Wing both have significant numbers of aircraft and personnel in the Persian Gulf supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom; and
- WHEREAS: Some 2,800 members of the Georgia Army National Guard's 78th Troop Command have been mobilized, including Guardsmen of the 178th and 190th Military Police Companies, who have reported for their second active duty mobilization in the past two years; and
- WHEREAS: The Hinesville-based 3rd Infantry Detachment is currently attached to the 3rd Infantry Division, which is one of the lead units engaged in the fighting in Iraq; and
- WHEREAS: The 122nd Rear Operations Center from Savannah was the first National Guard unit to deploy to Afghanistan following the events of September 11, 2001, and for more than nine months managed humanitarian aid operations to the war-torn country; and
- WHEREAS: The Georgia National Guard and the Georgia Department of Defense continue to play a key role in the state's homeland defense efforts; and
- WHEREAS: The 116th Air Control Wing from Robins Air Force Base made a successful transition into the Joint STARS to become the first "blended" wing in the Air Force, making it the largest wing in the Air National Guard and the only wing flying the sophisticated Joint STARS mission; and
- WHEREAS: The Georgia Department of Defense was the first state agency to win the prestigious Oglethorpe Award for organizational excellence, and in recognition of the Georgia National Guard's focus on people, Georgia became the first state in the nation to be awarded the Excellence in Diversity Award by the National Guard Bureau; now
- THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 15, 2003, as GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD DAY throughout our state and further encourage all citizens to honor the heritage and contributions of the men and women of this distinguished organization.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 15th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand three.

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