

NATIONAL GUARD DAY

WHEREAS: More than 9,000 members of the Georgia Army and Air National Guard have served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism; and

WHEREAS: Today, members of Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade are serving in Iraq, helping rebuild the infrastructure, winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people and battling insurgents in some of the most dangerous portions of that country; and

WHEREAS: The 116th Air Control Wing at Robins Air Force Base and Savannah's 165th Airlift Wing continue to fly missions in Southwest Asia and around the world in direct support of ground operations; and

WHEREAS: Elements of other Georgia Air National Guard units deployed Airmen to Iraq, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and throughout Southwest Asia in support of the Global War on Terrorism; and

WHEREAS: In the past year, Georgia Army National Guard's 221st Military Intelligence Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Battalion, 878th Engineer Battalion, 118th Personal Services Company, 122nd Rear Operations Center, 3rd Infantry Detachment and 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment have all deployed citizen-soldiers to Southwest Asia; and

WHEREAS: In the wake of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, more than 2,000 Georgia Army and Air National Guard members deployed to the Gulf Coast to conduct search and rescue operations, emergency airlifts and security support, as well as to distribute food, water and other emergency supplies to the storm victims; and

WHEREAS: The all volunteer Georgia State Defense Force deployed within hours to Dobbins Air Reserve Base to provide vital medical and ambulatory evacuee mission support to the victims of Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS: Through the nationally acclaimed Youth Challenge Academy, STARBASE Program, 4th Civil Support Team, counter-drug operations and partnership with the Republic of Georgia, the Georgia National Guard and Department of Defense continue to add value to our communities, state and nation; and

WHEREAS: In the past year, 25 Georgia Citizen-Soldiers have died to defend our freedoms; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 22, 2006, as NATIONAL GUARD DAY in Georgia and earnestly thank all who have served or are presently serving to protect their nation.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 21st day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand six.