



A house resolution

congratulating the Minnesota National Guard on the
150th Anniversary of its founding

WHEREAS, the Minnesota National Guard is comprised of citizen-soldiers who are our own fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota National Guard is the oldest continuously organized, citizen-soldier militia in our nation, formed before the United States Army itself;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota National Guard traces its origins to the formation of the Pioneer Guard in the Minnesota territory in 1856, two years before Minnesota became the 32nd state in the union; and

WHEREAS, the First Minnesota Infantry was among the first militia regiments that responded to President Lincoln's call for troops in April 1861 when it volunteered for three years of service during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the First Minnesota Infantry would see battle at Bull Run, Antietam, and Gettysburg; and

WHEREAS, during a critical moment in the battle at Gettysburg, 262 soldiers of the First Minnesota Infantry, along with other Union forces, bravely charged the Confederate brigade, allowing the Union line to reform; and

WHEREAS, only 47 men answered the roll after this valiant charge, earning the First Minnesota Infantry the highest casualty rate of any unit in the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota National Guard was the first to volunteer for service in the Philippines and Cuba during the Spanish-American War of 1898, with enough men to form three regiments; and

WHEREAS, one of the three Minnesota regiments to report for duty in the War with Spain, the 13th Volunteer regiment, saw some of the heaviest fighting of the war in the battle of Manila, and suffered more casualties than all other regiments combined during that key confrontation to free the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, after the cross-border raids of Pancho Villa and the attempted instigation of a war between the United States and Mexico, the border was secured in part by the Minnesota National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota National Guard was mobilized for duty in World War I, where many Minnesotans saw duty in France, including the 151st Field Artillery, which saw duty as part of the famed 42nd "Rainbow" Division; and

WHEREAS, the first Air National Guard unit in the nation was the 109th Observation Squadron of the Minnesota National Guard, which passed its muster inspection on January 17, 1921; and

WHEREAS, a tank company of the Minnesota National Guard from Brainerd, Minnesota, was shipped to the Philippines in 1941 to shore up American defenses against Japan as World War II neared; and

WHEREAS, these men from Brainerd fought hard and bravely as American forces were pushed into the Bataan Peninsula and ultimately endured the Bataan Death March; and

WHEREAS, men of the 175th Field Artillery, as part of the 34th "Red Bull" Division became the first American Division to be deployed to Europe in January of 1942; and

WHEREAS, when the 34th Division was shipped to North Africa, it fired the first American shells against the Nazi forces; and

WHEREAS, the 34th Division participated in six major Army campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy, which led to the division being credited with taking the most enemy-defended hills of any division in the European Theater as well as having more combat days than any other division in Europe; and

WHEREAS, in January 1951, as a result of the sudden and massive reinforcement of North Korean forces by soldiers from Communist China, the Minnesota Guard was again mobilized. With many of its members being seasoned World War II veterans, the Minnesota National Guard's 47th Division was selected to serve as a U.S. Army training division for two years during the Korean conflict. Most of the 47th Division's personnel were eventually reassigned as replacement troops to Germany or to combat in Korea. Minnesota's Air Guard was also activated for the Korean War, contributing pilots to the intense air combat in Korea's "MIG Alley"; and

WHEREAS, during the Vietnam War, although never broadly mobilized, the Minnesota Air Guard flew hundreds of supply and transport missions to Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota National Guard served with distinction on the ground and in the air during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota National Guard troops have helped keep the peace in the former Yugoslavia, including over 2,000 troops who have seen service in Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota National Guard has participated in keeping America safe after September 11, 2001, in many ways including airport security; and

WHEREAS, the Duluth-based 148th Fighter Wing's F-16s flew combat patrols over cities after September 11th for a longer time than any other air defense unit; and

WHEREAS, more than 600 Minnesota National Guard troops have been deployed to Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, over 11,000 have been called up for full-time service since the September 11th terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota National Guard troops are presently serving in national defense missions in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, are currently part of the state's largest troop deployment since World War II, with more than 2,600 of Minnesota's citizen soldiers called to service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota National Guard has greatly contributed not only to battles but also to addressing other calamities, such as aiding police in suppressing the violent riots of the 1947 national meat processors strike; and responding to natural disasters such as the Red River flood of 1997 in which they organized search and rescue missions, helped shelter people who were left homeless, ran logistics, and assisted sandbagging efforts; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration of the House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota that it congratulates the Minnesota National Guard on this date of April 17, 2006, the 150th Anniversary of its founding, and salutes and honors all the men and women, past and present, who have ever served in the Minnesota National Guard:

for their character, courage, and commitment;

for their training, skill, and leadership;

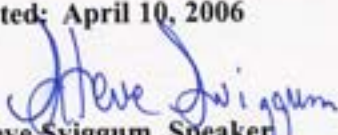
for their patriotism, dedication, and selfless service;

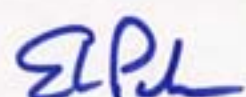
for their many and varied sacrifices, whether physical, emotional, financial, or other; and

for their past and continuing great successes in helping our nation to survive both insurrection and outside attacks from nations and forces bent on our very destruction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnesota Legislature vows to never forget the men and women of the Minnesota National Guard, whether in time of war or of peace, and whether living or dead.

Dated: April 10, 2006


Steve Sviggum, Speaker
Minnesota House of Representatives


Erik Paulsen, Chair
Rules and Legislative Administration



Lynn Wardlow

Lynn Wardlow
State Representative

Kathy Tingelstad

Kathy Tingelstad
State Representative

Dan Severson

Dan Severson
State Representative

Irv Anderson

Irv Anderson
State Representative

Bernie Lieder

Bernie L. Lieder
State Representative

Katie Sieben

Katie Sieben
State Representative