

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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Action: Be Adopted  
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1  
Yeas: Cowan, Schaufler, Scott, Barker  
Nays: 0  
Exc.: Boquist  
Prepared By: Jim Keller, Administrator  
Meeting Dates: 1/30

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Designates December 13<sup>th</sup> of every year as "Honor Our National Guard Day."

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Members are volunteers
- Members help build national identity in foreign countries
- Members provide a citizen soldier perspective
- Oregon National Guard started in 1843, 16 years before statehood

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Army National Guard is the oldest component of the United States Armed Forces. The history of the Army National Guard dates back to December 13, 1636, when the Massachusetts Bay Colony organized three militia regiments to defend against the growing threat of the Pequot Indians. Patterned after the English militia systems, all males between 16 and 60 were obligated to own arms and take part in the defense of the community.

The National Guard is the organized militia reserved to the states by the Constitution of the United States under Article 1, Section 8. In peacetime, the National Guard is commanded by the Governor of each respective state or territory. When ordered to active duty for mobilization or called into federal service for emergencies, units of the Guard are under the control of the appropriate service secretary. The militia clause reserves the appointment of officers and the authority of training the militia to the states. In 1903, Congress officially designated the organized militia as the National Guard and established procedures for training and equipping the Guard to active duty military standards.

The National Guard continues its historic mission of providing defense of the nation.