

WHEREAS; on December 13, 1636, the first organized militia regiments in North America were established in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, marking the symbolic birth of the United States National Guard; and

WHEREAS; the United States National Guard maintains a standing army of citizen soldiers and airmen in every state, the District of Columbia, and most territories, with troops ready to be deployed at any time to provide critical support in communities across the country and abroad in response to natural disasters and other crises of local, national, and international concern; and

WHEREAS; administered by the National Guard Bureau, the Wisconsin National Guard is Wisconsin’s branch of the United States National Guard, composed of the Wisconsin Army National Guard and the Wisconsin Air National Guard; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin National Guard was established on March 5, 1837, when the people of the then-Wisconsin Territory began forming what would become the Wisconsin State Militia upon the founding of the state in 1848 and the Wisconsin Branch of the United States National Guard in 1879; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Army National Guard is based out of four major commands in Camp Douglas, Madison, Milwaukee, and Fort McCoy, while the Wisconsin Air National Guard is based out of Camp Douglas, Madison, and Milwaukee, and together they include more than 10,000 citizen soldiers and airmen; and

WHEREAS; since its founding, members of the Wisconsin National Guard have been deployed on innumerable missions, both state and federal, with the lineage of some battalions still tracing their roots to the 1st and 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiments in the Civil War; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin commends the Wisconsin National Guard and all its members for their selflessness and sacrifice in service to the health, safety, security, and well-being of all Wisconsinites and all Americans and congratulates the United States National Guard on 387 years of exemplary service;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim December 13 2023 as

387TH BIRTHDAY OF THE NATIONAL GUARD
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 3rd day of November 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State