

WHEREAS; in December 2019, a highly contagious and deadly novel strain of the coronavirus—now named COVID-19—was detected and began to spread into countries throughout the world, including the United States, prompting the World Health Organization to declare a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS; on March 12, 2020, the Wisconsin National Guard mobilized to support the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) in escorting 37 cruise ship passengers to their homes after exposure to COVID-19, marking the beginning of an unprecedented and historic period of service to our state; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin National Guard quickly expanded its role in supporting our state's COVID-19 response to include assisting with staffing at a senior living facility in Grafton, operating a state-run personal protective equipment distribution center in Madison, staffing three voluntary self-isolation sites in Milwaukee and Madison, and assisting with mortuary affairs operations in five counties; and

WHEREAS; by May 2020, more than 600 Wisconsin National Guard personnel were staffing 25 COVID-19 specimen collection teams across our state and, by January 2021, these teams had collected over one million specimens in support of DHS' efforts to provide access to timely and equitable testing to all populations; and

WHEREAS; a Wisconsin National Guard call center was also established to enhance community and personal health and safety by helping local health departments communicate over 565,000 COVID-19 test results to Wisconsinites between May and December 2020; and

WHEREAS; when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued emergency use authorization for the first COVID-19 vaccine in December 2020, the Wisconsin National Guard mobilized to assist DHS with managing and distributing our state's vaccine inventory and, in January 2021, launched a number of mobile vaccination teams, which have administered over 200,000 vaccines statewide to date; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin recognizes and celebrates the more than 2,000 Wisconsin National Guard service members who have supported our state's ongoing COVID-19 response since March 2020 for their exemplary service to the people of Wisconsin, and pays tribute to their professionalism and sacrifice;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 24, 2021, as

## **WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD COVID-19 SUPPORT RECOGNITION DAY**

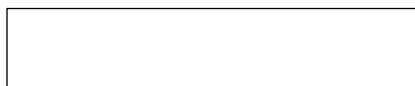
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

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 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State