

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 our country's National Guard; and

WHEREAS; for 384 years, the National Guard has maintained a standing army of citizen soldiers and airmen in every state, the District of Columbia, and most territories, ready to be deployed at any time to provide invaluable support in communities across the United States and abroad in response to natural disasters and other crises of local, national, and international concern; and

WHEREAS; established in 1837, when citizens began forming what would become the Wisconsin State Militia, and administered by the National Guard Bureau, the Wisconsin National Guard is composed of the Wisconsin Army National Guard and the Wisconsin Air National Guard; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Army National Guard is currently made up of 7,200 soldiers and is based out of four major commands located across our state in Camp Douglas, Madison, Milwaukee, and Fort McCoy, while the Air National Guard has three major units based out of Camp Douglas, Madison, and Milwaukee; 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiments in the Civil War; and

WHEREAS; we recognize the invaluable contributions of members of the Wisconsin National Guard throughout the history of our state and country and, this year in particular, we honor them for the important role they have played, and continue to play, in our state's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic amidst the largest sustained domestic mobilization in its history, while more than 1,000 members have simultaneously deployed or returned from overseas, and thousands more have deployed domestically for various missions; and


WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin commends the National Guard and all its members for their selflessness and sacrifice in service of the health, safety, and well-being of all Wisconsinites and all Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim December 13, 2020, as the

## **384<sup>TH</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State