

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 has maintained a standing army of citizen soldiers and airmen in every state, the District of Columbia, and most territories for 385 years, ready to be deployed at any time to provide invaluable support in communities across our 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 our state's branch of the United States National Guard, composed of the Wisconsin Army National Guard and the Wisconsin Air National Guard, and established on March 5, 1837, when residents of the then-Wisconsin Territory began forming what would become the Wisconsin State Militia upon our state's founding in 1848 and adopt its current title in 1879; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Army National Guard is currently made up of approximately 7,700 soldiers and is based out of four major commands located across our state in Camp Douglas, Madison, Milwaukee, and Fort McCoy, while the Wisconsin Air National Guard, composed of around 2,300 members, 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 1st and 2nd 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 in our state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic amidst the largest sustained domestic mobilization in its history, with more than 2,000 soldiers and airmen having mobilized to support our state's pandemic response since March 2020; 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 385 years of exemplary service;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim December 13, 2021, as

## **385TH 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State