

By: Bell of Montgomery

H.R. No. 938

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas State Guard Day is taking place at the State
2 Capitol on April 4, 2023, providing a welcome opportunity to honor
3 the members and leadership of this distinguished branch of the
4 state's military forces; and

5 WHEREAS, The first colonial militia was established in Texas
6 in 1823, when the area was still part of Mexico; after Texans won
7 their independence and subsequently became part of the United
8 States, the various militias across Texas were consolidated in 1871
9 as the State Guard, which was replaced in 1903 by the Texas Army
10 National Guard; in 1940, the creation of local military units was
11 authorized by the U.S. Congress whenever the National Guard was
12 deployed for federal service, and on February 10, 1941, the Texas
13 Legislature created the Texas State Guard, which quickly grew to
14 include almost 17,500 officers and enlisted personnel organized
15 into 50 battalions; in 1948, the legislature activated the Texas
16 State Guard Reserve Corps, which continued until the Texas State
17 Guard was reauthorized in 1965; and

18 WHEREAS, One of the three branches of the Texas Military
19 Department, the Texas State Guard is headquartered at Camp Mabry in
20 Austin; over the years, the duties of this mission-ready military
21 force have included providing security for the state's
22 infrastructure during World War II, maintaining order after civil
23 unrest, and conducting recovery efforts after such catastrophic
24 events as the explosion of a freighter in Texas City in 1947 and the

1 loss of the space shuttle *Columbia* in 2003; since 2005, the guard's
2 deployments have included responding to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita,
3 Ike, and Harvey as well as the COVID-19 pandemic; moreover, the
4 guard has participated in the long-term border missions of
5 Operation Border Star and Operation Drawbridge, and it has also
6 taken part in such public service efforts as Operation Lone Star,
7 which provides critical medical care to underserved populations in
8 South Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, For more than eight decades, the men and women of the
10 Texas State Guard have lived up to their motto, "Equal to the Task,"
11 by standing ready to aid and protect their fellow citizens, and
12 their remarkable record of courageous and dedicated service is
13 truly worthy of celebration; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
15 Legislature hereby recognize April 4, 2023, as Texas State Guard
16 Day at the State Capitol and extend to all those in attendance
17 sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful experience; and,
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for the Texas State Guard as an expression of high regard
21 by the Texas House of Representatives.