

SENATE RESOLUTION
8610

By Senators Hobbs, Eide, Prentice, Kohl-Welles, Kauffman, Berkey, Tom, Marr, Spanel, Franklin, Sheldon, Kline, Oemig, Keiser, Fraser, Regala, Parlette, Haugen, McAuliffe, Brandland, Schoesler, Stevens, Rasmussen, Shin, Poulsen, Hewitt, Kastama, Pridemore, Jacobsen, Hatfield and Kilmer

WHEREAS, Nearly eighty-six hundred men and women of the Washington National Guard continue to serve the country as guardians of American interests at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, These recognized leaders in state, regional, and national preparedness, who reside in every legislative district throughout Washington, volunteer their time and personal efforts to serve the needs of the people of Washington state; and

WHEREAS, The Guard answered the state's call numerous times in response to firefighting and flood support efforts and to protect lives in both civil and natural emergencies and disasters; and

WHEREAS, The Washington Army and Air National Guard provided critical mission support in both personnel and equipment to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, respectively, and Operation Noble Eagle here at home; and

WHEREAS, The Washington Army and Air National Guard answered the call in support of hurricane relief efforts on the Gulf Coast resulting from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma; and

WHEREAS, The Guard continues to train and prepare for both natural disasters and threats to our national security; and

WHEREAS, The Guard continues to promote positive lifestyles and activities for Washington's youth through involvement in and support of highly effective drug prevention programs with school-aged children and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, The Guard continues to actively participate in the state's counterdrug efforts by providing soldiers, airmen, and specialized equipment to over thirty-five local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, The Guard adds value to communities by opening its readiness centers for public use, food banks, and other community and youth activities. The Guard continues to build upon these readiness centers and armories throughout the state to enhance education, add to quality of life, and increase economic vitality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate express its thanks and appreciation to the devoted families and dedicated employers of our Washington National Guard soldiers and airmen for their support, without whom the Guard's missions could not be successful; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the value and dedication of a strong Washington National Guard to the viability, economy, safety, security, and well-being of this state, both through the outstanding performance of its state emergency and disaster relief mission, and through the continued benefit to local communities by the presence of productively employed, drug-free, well-equipped, and trained Guard units and the readiness centers and armories that house them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to The Adjutant General of the Washington National Guard, the Governor of the State of Washington, the Secretaries of the United States Army and Air Force, and the President of the United States.