

*The State of New Hampshire*  
*By Her Excellency*  
*Margaret Wood Hassan, Governor*

*A Proclamation*

**NEW HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL GUARD DAY**  
**DECEMBER 13, 2013**

**WHEREAS**, December 13, 2013, the New Hampshire National Guard will celebrate 377 years of dedication to its state and nation. From King Phillips War in 1675 to the current war in Afghanistan, New Hampshire National Guardsmen have fought bravely in every major American conflict; and

**WHEREAS**, The New Hampshire National Guard can be traced back to 1623 and the militias which guarded the first settlements near the mouth of the Piscataqua River in Portsmouth; and

**WHEREAS**, Since 9/11, more than 2,000 New Hampshire guardsmen have deployed overseas in support of combat and peacekeeping missions under Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn. Collectively, they account for a Silver Star, several Bronze Stars, several Commendation Medals for Valor, more than 100 Combat Infantry and Combat Action Badges, and more than 100 Purple Hearts; and

**WHEREAS**, Since 9/11, four New Hampshire Guardsmen, Sgt. Jeremiah Holmes, Spc. Alan Burgess, Sgt. David Stelmat, and Cpl. Scott Dimond, have been killed in action, making the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Domestically, New Hampshire citizen soldiers and airmen have mobilized under Operation Noble Eagle, aided the victims of floods and ice storms, and rescued lost hikers in the White Mountains. They have stood up a Civil Support Team that has responded to chemical and biological emergencies, and established a model State Partnership Program with El Salvador; and

**WHEREAS**, The last decade has been one of the most dynamic on record, forever changing the way the New Hampshire National Guard operates. The Guard is stronger, wiser, and has a greater awareness of who it is and what it stands for. The Guard's connection to New Hampshire's communities has grown deeper, and it is as committed to the ideals of our state and nation as the first minutemen were nearly four centuries ago;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, GOVERNOR** of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **DECEMBER 13, 2013**, as **NEW HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL GUARD DAY** in the State of New Hampshire and commend the New Hampshire National Guard for its selfless service and the support and sacrifice of your families, employers, and communities. You have always been there for us—for New Hampshire and for our nation.

Given this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and thirteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-eight.

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Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor