

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas National Guard and Reserve forces comprise nearly half of our nation's military strength, and are essential to America's national security; and

Whereas Reserve component forces stand ready to answer the call to serve, whether serving alongside active duty counterparts all across the globe or responding to humanitarian crises at home and abroad; and

Whereas Employers provide critical support to members of the National Guard and Reserve; allowing citizen warriors to serve whenever the Nation calls, often foregoing financial gain and making sacrifices in the process; and

Whereas Employer support is stronger than ever, more than 41 years after President Richard Nixon authorized the Secretary of Defense to establish the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR); and

Whereas The Massachusetts National Guard was the Nation's first National Guard Unit, founded as the Massachusetts Bay Colonial Militia in December of 1636 and continues to be a beacon of pride, service and dedication for the Commonwealth; and

Whereas The Commonwealth is in debt to the citizen warriors departing the comforts of home to ensure our freedoms remain intact and to the commitment of dedicated and supportive employers who continue to make service in the reserve components possible,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim September 22nd - 28th, 2013, to be,

NATIONAL EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE WEEK

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this **week of September**, in the year two thousand and thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts