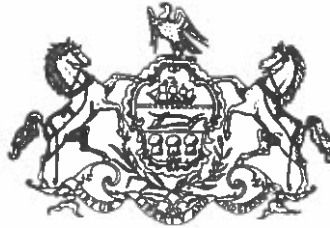


STEPHEN KINSEY, MEMBER
201ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

106B EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202201
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2201
(717) 787-3181
FAX: (717) 772-4038

5952-54 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19144
(215) 849-6592
FAX: (215) 560-1824



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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TO: All Republican and Democratic House Members
FROM: Rep. Steven Kinsey and Rep. Chris Sainato, Rep. Stephen Barrar
RE: Recognizing the National Guard on their 379th Birthday
DATE: October 30, 2015

In the near future, I will be introducing a resolution recognizing the National Guard on the occasion of their 379th Birthday.

Originally organized as a militia in Boston, Massachusetts on December 13, 1636, the National Guard has expanded to all 50 states of the Union. These "Citizen Soldiers" (Soldiers and Airmen) continue to promote high standards of professionalism and diverse proficiency that has evolved over three centuries of working in various communities across the United States.

In addition, the National Guard formed one of the first all-African-American units in U.S. military history in 1863, known as the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers. Their creation was met with mixed reactions at the time. However, the unit serves to this day and the first African-American to receive a Medal of Honor, William Harvey Carney, hailed from the 54th.

Second to only the U.S. Army in terms of the number of service members, today's National Guard provides relief from natural disasters and other hazards. The Guard has also evolved into an active ready force deploying around the world to assist in the protection of United States' interests abroad.

I hope you will join me in co-sponsoring this important resolution.