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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 390
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
on March 5, 2012)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Cosgrove)

Designating the third Monday in January, in 2013 and in each succeeding year, as Virginia National Guard Day in Virginia.

WHEREAS, the National Guard is the oldest component of the Armed Forces of the United States and one of the nation's longest-enduring institutions; and

WHEREAS, Virginia traces the heritage and traditions of the selfless service of citizen soldiers to the founding of the Jamestown Colony in 1607; and

WHEREAS, Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and Tyler all served as officers in the Virginia militia; and

WHEREAS, the courageous soldiers and airmen of the Virginia National Guard have made outstanding and valuable contributions to the defense of the United States and the security of the Commonwealth and have advanced the cause of freedom around the world; and

WHEREAS, these same soldiers and airmen have put themselves in harm's way, fought bravely, made great sacrifices, and provided an example of selfless service for all the citizens of the Commonwealth and the nation; and

WHEREAS, from the American Revolution to the American Civil War, from World War I to D-Day, from Operation Desert Storm to Iraq and Afghanistan, Virginia National Guard soldiers and airmen have demonstrated unmatched courage, dedication, and willingness to sacrifice to accomplish any mission; and

WHEREAS, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, more than 14,000 Virginia National Guard soldiers and airmen have served on federal active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn, helping to maintain security in the United States and further the cause of freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, including service in the NATO peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Kosovo; and

WHEREAS, Virginia National Guard soldiers and airmen responded to numerous floods, hurricanes, snow storms, and other natural disasters to support state and local authorities to provide assistance to citizens of the Commonwealth and citizens in neighboring states in their time of need; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia National Guard strives to be a relevant and rapidly responding force that is staffed, equipped, and trained to meet all federal and state requirements and is prepared to deploy as directed by the Governor to assist state and local authorities to protect life and property and preserve peace, order, and public safety; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate the third Monday in January, in 2013 and in each succeeding year, as Virginia National Guard Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.