

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY SENATORS MILLIGAN, BOUDREAUX, CATHEY, FOIL, PEACOCK, REESE
AND TARVER

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana National Guard on its exemplary service to the state of Louisiana during the last two years of unprecedented natural disasters.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard has performed commendable work and displayed tremendous dedication through its efforts to protect the lives and welfare of Louisianians; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard fulfills its federal and state missions in concert with a wide variety of statewide organizations; and

WHEREAS, by air, by land, and by water, the Louisiana National Guard bravely carries out its duties in any emergency with the core principles of discipline and teamwork; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard has supported the response to the pandemic since the first known case of COVID-19 in March of 2020; and

WHEREAS, due to the efforts of the Louisiana National Guard, more than four hundred ninety-seven thousand individuals were tested at twenty-three testing sites statewide, over two million food boxes were distributed, over sixty-one million items of personal protective equipment (PPE) were delivered, and one hundred ninety-one thousand two hundred ninety-eight vaccines were administered; and

WHEREAS, throughout five waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, the soldiers and airmen of the Louisiana National Guard have developed specialized skills to better prepare for future pandemics; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard disaster response to COVID-19 supported missions including food and water distribution, transportation, communication, public

works, engineering, emergency management, mass care, emergency assistance, logistics management, COVID-19 testing, public safety, security, traffic control, generators, power supply, and food bank operations; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Laura came ashore in south Louisiana August 27, 2020, as a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 150 mph, causing catastrophic flooding and damage; and

WHEREAS, more than six thousand Louisiana National Guard members were deployed, using two hundred thirty-six high water vehicles, seventy-six boats, and seventeen helicopters to support hurricane rescue efforts, in addition to over a dozen engineering teams trained to help move debris and clear roads; and

WHEREAS, Guardsmen helped evacuate more than three hundred fifty-eight people and twenty-nine pets from the affected areas; and

WHEREAS, after Hurricane Laura, Guardsmen distributed over five million meals-ready-to-eat (MREs), seven million liters of water, one million bags of ice, and two hundred thousand tarps to victims of the storm; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida came ashore in south Louisiana August 29, 2021, as a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 150 mph and heavy rainfall, causing devastating flooding and damage; and

WHEREAS, approximately nine thousand Louisiana National Guard members were deployed, conducting search and rescue sweeps across thirty-one parishes and rescuing three hundred ninety-seven people and sixty-five pets; and

WHEREAS, Guardsmen cleared over four hundred miles of roads that were clogged with debris; and

WHEREAS, after Hurricane Ida, Guardsmen distributed almost seven million MREs, eight million liters of water, and over one million bags of ice, three hundred thousand tarps, and four hundred generators; and

WHEREAS, over one thousand Guardsmen helped clear roads and handled logistical support in response to the winter storm in 2021; and

WHEREAS, using engineering teams, the Louisiana National Guard assessed two hundred twenty-three miles of road while clearing one hundred forty-seven miles of snow

and debris from roads; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard also provided seven wreckers to help Louisiana State Police and state transportation officials clear Interstate 20, moving two hundred sixty disabled commercial vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Guardsmen distributed over three million liters of water and two million gallons of bulk water to people in parishes affected by the storm and provided fourteen generators to assist with water systems; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard responded to flooding throughout the state following multiple days of steady rain beginning in May of 2021; and

WHEREAS, at the height of the response, three hundred ninety-three Guardsmen were activated to support various missions, including search and rescue, engineering, and aerial reconnaissance; and

WHEREAS, using as many as seventy-nine high-water vehicles and nineteen boats, Guardsmen rescued twenty-five people and two pets in Lake Charles; and

WHEREAS, engineering teams worked with local and state officials to determine the specific needs of communities to combat rising flood waters and installed Tiger Dams to mitigate flooding; and

WHEREAS, during the last two years, the Louisiana National Guard has confronted a demanding series of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, Guardsmen have also deployed to other states and overseas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the tireless professionalism of our soldiers and airmen in supporting the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the devastation of hurricanes Laura and Ida, and multiple storms in 2021 merits a special measure of commendation for the men and women of the Louisiana National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard continues to live up to its promise of "Always Ready, Always There".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana National Guard on its exemplary service to the state of Louisiana during the last two years of unprecedented natural disasters.

SR NO. 121

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Major General Keith Waddell of the Louisiana National Guard.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE