



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

September 14, 2008

Dear Employer:

The soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen of the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard, Navy Reserve, Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, ensure the safety and security of our local communities, our state and our nation. These outstanding men and women, who freely volunteer their time and their talent to these vital missions, make up nearly half of our nation's military forces.

When not in uniform, these individuals raise families, attend school and go to work. They are our neighbors, our friends and our relatives. They carry on the time-honored tradition of the citizen in uniform.

As an employer of a member of the National Guard or Reserve, the sacrifices you make allow these men and women to serve all of us. When duty calls, employers give our citizens in uniform the time away from work to train for their military jobs. In state and national emergencies, you give them the time, often a year or more, to answer the call to active service. This can be a cumbersome burden, especially for small businesses.

I thank you for your dedication to and support of these men and women who give so much of themselves so that we may live in a state and a nation blessed with liberty and freedom. Without the sacrifices you make for them and their families, they could not do their vitally-important military jobs.

In appreciation for all you do, I have proclaimed the week of September 14-20, 2008 as *Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve* in North Carolina. Thank you for your commitment to the National Guard and Reserve.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Easley".

Michael F. Easley

MFE/kwm



State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE WEEK

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Nation's National Guard and Reserve forces continue to serve our country with distinction; and

WHEREAS, today, our National Guardsmen and Reservists are active on every front in the Global War on Terror; and

WHEREAS, during National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, we honor our courageous Guardsman and Reservists and their employers, whose continued support is vital to the success of our Armed Forces and to the strength of our country; and

WHEREAS, our Nation's Guard and Reserve personnel are training hard and deploying frequently to meet new challenges worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Guardsmen and Reservists are a key component in the Global War on Terror, serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Horn of Africa and at home to defeat the terrorist threat to our national security; and

WHEREAS, Guardsmen and Reservists have responded to natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies all over the world, ranging from hurricanes and floods to the evacuation of Americans from Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, our Nation is blessed and grateful for the service of these brave men and women who continue to answer the call to serve our communities and our country; and

WHEREAS, by supporting our Guardsmen and Reservists, employers across our Nation are also helping to advance freedom and democracy around the world; and

WHEREAS, employer support ensures a degree of comfort for members of the Guard and Reserve so they can focus on the task at hand; and

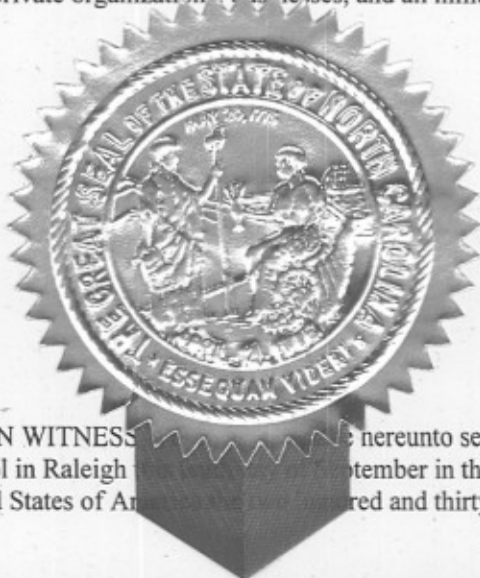
WHEREAS, at the same time, these employers benefit from the professionalism, experience, and leadership skills these citizen-warriors bring home; and

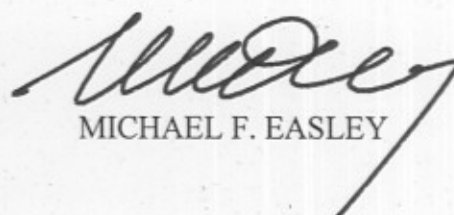
WHEREAS, employer support of our Guard and Reserve at home and abroad helps ensure our troops are mission-ready while also providing a source of pride and assurance for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, this country is grateful to employers and workers for their support of Guard and Reserve members and their families; and

WHEREAS, together, our National Guard and Reserve forces and their employers are united in purpose and reflect the highest standards of professionalism and honor;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 14-20, 2008, as "NATIONAL EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE WEEK." I encourage all North Carolinians to join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to the members of our National Guard and Reserve and their civilian employers for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I call on state and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh, North Carolina, on the 14th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the hundred and thirty-third.