



NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

# NEWS RELEASE

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**NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD TO CELEBRATE  
NATIONAL GUARD'S 379TH BIRTHDAY DURING  
CEREMONY AT STATE CAPITOL**

**RELEASED BY  
LT. COL. KEVIN HYNES**

**December 11, 2015**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

LINCOLN, Neb. – The Nebraska National Guard will celebrate the 379th anniversary of the founding of the National Guard during a 10 a.m. ceremony, Monday Dec. 14, at the State Capitol rotunda.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony will be Gov. Pete Ricketts. Also speaking during the ceremony will be Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, adjutant general of the Nebraska National Guard.

The National Guard draws its heritage back to the Massachusetts Bay colony, which was founded on Dec. 13, 1636, when the Massachusetts General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, for the first time in America, established that all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 were required to join the militia. Since that day, members of the National Guard have fought in each of America's wars and continue to serve overseas in such locations as Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Closer to home, the National Guard continues to provide support for such emergencies as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and wildfires.

Although not quite as old as the larger National Guard, Nebraska National Guardsmen will mark their 161st birthday this month. The Nebraska National Guard was founded when Nebraska's acting Territorial Governor Thomas B. Cuming issued a proclamation on Dec. 23, 1854, recommending that the citizens of the territory organize, in their respective neighborhoods, into volunteer companies. The territory's first legally authorized militia consisted of two regiments, one north and one south of the Platte River.

Monday's ceremony is open to the public.

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Note: The media is invited to cover Monday's 379th National Guard Birthday ceremony at the State Capitol rotunda beginning at 10 a.m. Members of the National Guard Public Affairs Office staff will be on hand to provide assistance.