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## **Representative Dan Daley's Bipartisan Memorial to Strengthen the Florida National Guard Passes on the House Floor**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — [House Memorial 505](#) sponsored by **Representative Dan Daley (D- Coral Springs)** passed with unanimous bipartisan support on the House Floor. This memorial urges Congress and the United States National Guard Bureau to increase the force structure allocation of the Florida National Guard. The Florida National Guard has deployed 25,000 soldiers since 9/11/01 (Federal activations) and has responded to the 5<sup>th</sup> most FEMA declared disasters of all states in the past 70 years (State activations).

Even though Florida is the third most populous state, we rank 53<sup>rd</sup> out of 54 (all states and territories with a Guard component) in the Guardsmen-to-Citizen ratio. In just the past year and a half, due to COVID-19, the Florida National Guard has expended the same number of workdays within the past 18 months as it has expended within the past 20 years. The Florida National Guard has been meeting its mission goals with just over 12,000 troops. However, this has meant several activations for the same soldiers again and again. Ultimately leading to excessive fatigue, and issues with retention and readiness.

"Floridians have depended heavily on the brave volunteers of our National Guard years and we owe them a debt of gratitude. We call on these citizen-soldiers when disaster strikes, now, they need our help. The National Guard needs proper troop numbers based on the size of our state and propensity for natural disasters," said **Representative Dan Daley**. "We simply don't have enough troops and are overworking these men and women and putting our state and nation at risk- congress must act."

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