## STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

## EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE WEEK AUGUST 15-21, 2021

WHEREAS, the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve and the Coast Guard Reserve comprise nearly half of our nation's military strength and are essential to America's national security; and

WHEREAS, National Guard and Reserve forces stand ready to answer the call to serve, whether serving alongside active duty counterparts around the globe or responding to humanitarian crises at home and abroad, including the ongoing fight to slow and stop the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, members of the National Guard and Reserve are citizen warriors who lead dual lives as workers, managers, professionals and students throughout our communities, and as members of our nation's Armed Forces who train and maintain their military skills in order to answer the call to serve at a moment's notice, often foregoing financial gain, being separated from loved ones and making other personal sacrifices in the process; and

WHEREAS, more than 48 years after President Nixon authorized the Secretary of Defense to establish the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and the Department of Defense established the North Dakota Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, employer support of National Guard and Reserve forces is stronger than ever; and

WHEREAS, the ESGR has promoted and facilitated a strong culture of mutually beneficial relationships between employers and their military employees, thereby enabling members of the National Guard and Reserve forces to respond quickly to state disaster emergencies and national military needs knowing they have a secure civilian career to return to after their service; and

WHEREAS, our nation is grateful to the citizen warriors departing the comforts of home to ensure our freedoms and security remain intact; and North Dakota pays special tribute to the commitment of dedicated and supportive employers who continue to make service in the National Guard and Reserve possible.

 ${\tt NOW}$ ,  ${\tt THEREFORE}$ , as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim August 15-21, 2021, EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE WEEK in the State of North Dakota.

GOVERNOR

Alvin A. Jaeger

SECRETARY OF STATE