

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the bond between Pennsylvania and Lithuania traces its roots to the discovery of anthracite coal in eastern Pennsylvania in the 1860s, when large groups of Lithuanians began to immigrate to the area; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 1993, the Pennsylvania National Guard established a State Partnership Program (SPP) with the Republic of Lithuania that has flourished for 30 years and looks to the future for continued success; and

WHEREAS, what began as simple senior leader visits and low-level familiarization exchanges, grew quickly to cooperative participation in large scale exercises and co-deployments to Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the program, the Pennsylvania National Guard and Lithuanian Armed Forces have conducted over 800 security cooperation engagements and participated together in numerous exercises; and

WHEREAS, Lithuania is a key ally not just to Pennsylvania, but also the greater United States—providing a constant and enduring voice to further security, economic prosperity, and responsible use of natural resources in Europe while countering Russian maligned influence; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania National Guard and Lithuanian Armed Forces have built a true partnership through long-term relationships based on trust, professionalism, and competence; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania and Lithuania continue to enhance regional security in Europe through collaboration and work towards common security objectives—over 6,200 Pennsylvania and Lithuanian Soldiers and Airmen have participated in SPP events since the inception of the program; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania National Guard remains resolutely committed to Lithuania's security and regional stability, maintaining our close relationship, and supporting initiatives that are most important to Lithuania.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim November 23, 2023 to be

STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM WITH LITHUANIA DAY

in recognition of 30 years of bilateral cooperation between the Pennsylvania National Guard and Lithuania Armed Forces. I encourage all citizens to inform themselves of the long-standing relationship between the Commonwealth and Lithuania.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this sixteenth day of May two thousand twenty-three, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-seventh.

Governor Josh Shapiro