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Lt. Gov. Askins Introduces Resolutions in Support of National Guard and Reserve Troops

OKLAHOMA CITY – Lt. Governor Jari Askins recently called for greater support and reinforcement of Oklahoma’s National Guard and Reserve Troops by investing further in upgrading Guard facilities and widening Guard responsibility through the federal government.

Askins and Lt. Governor Brian Dubie (VT) are joined by Lt. Governor Bill Halter (AR) and Lt. Governor Tim Murray (MA) as co-sponsors of two resolutions calling upon the president and the U.S. Congress to increase support of National Guard and Reserve Troops. The resolutions, which will be presented at the 2009 Winter National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) Meeting, also call for increased military training, manpower and mission authorizations.

The resolutions recognize the important role that state National Guard and Reserve Troops play in communities across the nation. Guard facilities stimulate local economies and serve as centers of shelter in times of crisis. The average Guard facility, however, is over 60 years old. Under the Base Realignment and Closing Commission (BRAC), the Oklahoma National Guard will build seven new Armed Forces Reserve Centers (AFRCs) in Fort Sill and Vance Air Force Base as well as the cities of Norman, Mustang, McAlester, Broken Arrow and Muskogee.

“Today’s troops are called upon more frequently for service at home and abroad, and Oklahoma is no exception. Our National Guard and Reserve Troops provide crucial services in times of disaster and do so above and beyond the call of duty,” Askins said. “It is my hope that Lt. Governors across the country will join us in our efforts and continue to thank our citizen-soldiers for their exemplary level of service.”