

# THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY



15 April 2023

Dear Members—

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the incoming President of the National Guard Association of New Jersey. I look forward to working with the Great State of New Jersey's Joint Air and Army members, to support NGAUS, the nation's oldest military association, where militia officers formed the association in 1878 to obtain better equipment and training by educating Congress on military requirements.

Since 1957, the NGANJ has actively worked to push legislation at the State and Federal levels that are favorable to National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have heard the call to service. To provide forums that foster professional development, while working to increase the awareness of the National Guard's mission with the American Public. This fosters interest in enhancing the readiness of our national defense.

To successfully carry out this mission, we need both our NJARNG and NJANG membership at the Officer and Enlisted levels to foster our partnership for a combined legislative engagement in State and National as well as partnering at the State Conference. This will help us in this endeavor and make this a reality as a Joint Call to Action! It is even more apparent as we work together with agility and perseverance! We will continue to align our work with the Great Adjutant General Lisa Hou's Strategic Plan.

This year's priorities for the Association include (but not limited to):

**Membership/Lifetime** – New Jersey's current membership number is only up by 1% from 33% in 2021 to a mere 34% in 2022. As we await the capture of the 2023 numbers this December, our goal should be to significantly increase by more than 1%.

**Legislative/Resolutions** – Senior leaders, it is time for your voices to be heard. If you have a need or capability, put pen to paper and leverage the association to help us help you.

**Strategic Partnerships** – Work to identify partners within the community, such as our Honorary Commanders, where you are working and living to connect in order to support some of our initiatives.

I'm excited for the year ahead and even more about the future for our Association. Together we can make an impact in our community and with our members.

**Colonel Lola Washington  
PRESIDENT,  
National Guard Association of NJ**