

# Benefits of Being a Member



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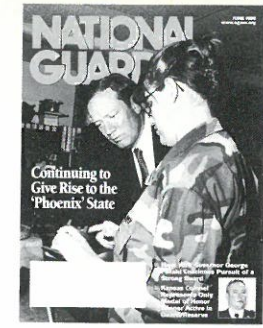
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## FEATURES

### Continuing to Give Rise to the 'Phoenix' State . . . . . 16

Taking the "Phoenix" state and propelling it to a level of superior achievement required more than an appreciation of the National Guard. At one time, the New York National Guard was dead last in the nation in recruiting and retention of its citizen-soldiers. With a strong state commander in chief, that changed. New York Governor George Pataki combines forceful leadership, special bonding and vigorous investment strategy to spark New York's remarkable comeback. Since setting into motion and guiding the chain of events that rescued New York from a disastrous decade of decline in personnel and unit losses, Governor Pataki has consistently led and delivered for his citizen-soldiers.

### War Hero Continues Service in the Guard . . . . . 20

Members of the National Guard Association of the United States and other visitors to the National Guard Memorial building in Washington, D.C will find one of the more unique military history displays in the country. The Medal of Honor alcove bears the names of courageous warriors like COL Donald Ballard of the Kansas Army National Guard. Ballard earned the Medal of Honor while serving in the Vietnam War. Today he continues to serve nation, state and community as a medical officer in the Kansas National Guard. His dedication is an example to us all.

## DEPARTMENTS

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Cover: SPC Autumn Smith of New York's 342d Forward Support Battalion explains a piece of equipment to Governor George Pataki during a recent visit by New York's commander in chief to the Fort Drum Army National Guard Equipment Concentration Site (see story on page 16). Photo, MAJ Paul Fanning (NYARNG). Inset: Kansas National Guard COL Donald Ballard is the only Medal of Honor winner still active in the Guard and Reserve (see story on page 20). Photo, LTC Joy Moser (KSARNG) Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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