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Tennessee National Guard Honors President Polk

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee National Guard celebrated the life of President James K. Polk in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tennessee State Capitol on Nov. 2, in honor of Polk's 227th birthday.

Each year, a representative of the current President of the United States is responsible for placing a wreath on the tomb of past presidents to honor them and their service on their birthday. Col. James Scates, the Tennessee National Guard's Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, represented President Joe Biden at the ceremony.

"It was a privilege and honor to represent the President today," said Scates. "As a Tennessean, I'm flattered to be able to commemorate President Polk for all he has done for our state and country."

During the ceremony, Scates and Sarah Elizabeth Hickman-Mcleod, James K. Polk Association Board Member laid a wreath on Polk's Tomb. Taps was played following the wreath laying.

James K. Polk was the 11th President of the United States from 1845 to 1849. During his presidency, Polk directed the country's efforts in the Mexican-American War. When the war began, Polk issued a call for volunteers to fight. He asked for 2,600 soldiers from Tennessee, and 30,000 answered the call; establishing forever Tennessee's reputation as the "The Volunteer State."

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Col. Cory Scates, Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Tennessee National Guard, and Sarah Elizabeth Hickman-Mcleod, James K. Polk Association Board Member, lay a wreath at the tomb of President James K. Polk, Nov. 2, at the Tennessee State Capitol, in Nashville. A wreath is laid on the tomb of former presidents each year on their birthday on behalf of the current president. (Tennessee Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Cordeiro)



Members of the Tennessee National Guard and the James K. Polk Association pay tribute to President James K. Polk, while Taps is played, Nov. 2, at the Tennessee State Capitol, in Nashville. A wreath is laid on the tomb of former presidents each year on their birthday on behalf of the current president. (Tennessee Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Cordeiro)

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