WHEREAS, the freedoms that are the bedrock of American democracy were abruptly challenged by savage attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska National Guard responded immediately to Operation Noble Eagle to enhance security in Nebraska by rapidly placing security forces at commercial airports, providing refueling missions to national air defense forces, securing National Guard facilities, and being prepared to reinforce local and state authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska National Guard, trained and ready, responded promptly to the President’s partial mobilization for Enduring Freedom, the direct war on terrorism, and will support the Army and Air Force as long as the fight continues; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the Nebraska National Guard have displayed great courage, patriotism, and professionalism by placing their normal lives on hold and taking up arms sustaining the unique and proud tradition of citizens-soldiers; and

WHEREAS, in the proud American tradition of support to our armed forces, civilians throughout Nebraska also responded immediately to the threat and have displayed great courage, patriotism, and professionalism in their efforts to ensure all necessary emergency response capabilities are in place and stand ready to protect their fellow citizens during times of emergency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Johanns, Governor of the State of Nebraska, order the Nebraska Military Department to establish the Nebraska National Guard Homeland Defense ribbon. This ribbon will be issued to all members of the Nebraska National Guard called to duty, in any capacity, in support of the war on terrorism and also to certain civilians who have contributed exemplary service to the State of Nebraska in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this 4th day of February, 2002.

Mike Johanns
Governor

Attest:
John Gale
Secretary of State