

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS: Arson is a serious crime that affects each and every person and can only be stopped when citizens realize the severe damage that arson causes; and

WHEREAS: Needless tragedies, including countless human injuries and deaths, are caused by acts of arson; and

WHEREAS: The financial loss annually due to arson reaches billions of dollars, which does not include indirect losses, both emotional and financial, including funerals, medical and legal costs, wages, business interruption and the cost of firefighting and law enforcement efforts, which together exceed the direct losses; and

WHEREAS: Communities and neighborhoods are blighted by arson, which erodes the tax base and causes loss of employment; and

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 4-10, 2003, as ARSON AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this fourth day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand three.