BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS: African Americans have played central roles in some of the most triumphant and courageous moments in the history of our state and nation and during the month of February we recognize, celebrate and honor their achievements; and

WHEREAS: For generations, African Americans have strengthened our society by urging reforms, overcoming obstacles and breaking down barriers, reflecting a proud legacy of courage and dedication; and

WHEREAS: We can learn valuable lessons of inspiration and find models of success in the lives and accomplishments of such notable African American Georgians as civil rights hero and Congressman John Lewis; international statesman and two-term Mayor of Atlanta Andrew Young; home run king and businessman Hank Aaron; and physician, educator and Cabinet member Dr. Louis Sullivan, among many others; and

WHEREAS: We remember and honor too the contributions of the everyday African American heroes to the success and prosperity of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS: As we pay tribute to African American history, we also recognize that, despite our progress, racial prejudice still exists in our society. As a state and as individuals, we must be vigilant in responding to discrimination wherever we find it, and;

WHEREAS: By promoting diversity, understanding, and opportunity, we will strengthen our state and continue our efforts to build a society where every person, of every race, can realize the promise of America ; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 2003 as BLACK HISTORY MONTH in Georgia and call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all of the people of Georgia to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that highlight and honor the many contributions that African Americans have made to our state and nation.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 10th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand three.