

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE WEEK

WHEREAS: The Preamble to the Constitution of the State of Georgia states, "To perpetuate the principles of free government, insure justice to all, preserve peace, promote the interest and happiness of the citizen and of the family, and transmit to posterity the enjoyment of liberty, we the people of Georgia, relying upon the protection and guidance of Almighty God, do ordain and establish this Constitution;" and

WHEREAS: Benjamin Franklin, at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, stated, "It is impossible to build an empire without our Father's aid. I believe the sacred writings which say that 'Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.' " (Psalm 127:1); and

WHEREAS: George Washington spoke these words: "animated alone by the pure spirit of Christianity, and conducting ourselves as the faithful subjects of our free government, we may enjoy every temporal and spiritual felicity;" and

WHEREAS: Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, wrote: "Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?" and

WHEREAS: James Madison, father of the United States Constitution, advocated "the diffusion of the light of Christianity in our nation" in his Memorial and Remonstrance. Patrick Henry quoted Proverbs 14:34, referring to our nation: "Righteousness alone can exalt a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." George Mason, in his Virginia Declaration of Rights, forerunner to our nation's Bill of Rights, affirmed "that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love and charity towards each other;" and

WHEREAS: These, and many other truly great men and women of America were Christian statesmen of high caliber and integrity who did not hesitate to express their faith; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 11–17, 2003, as CHRISTIAN HERITAGE WEEK in Georgia.

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

