

# CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS: April is the month in which the Confederate States of America began and ended a four-year struggle for states' rights, individual freedom and local governmental control, which they believed to be right and just; and

WHEREAS: Confederate Memorial Day on April 26 is a time when Georgians honor the more than 90,000 brave men and women who served the Confederate States of America; and

WHEREAS: Georgia joined the Confederacy in January 1861 when a convention ratified the ordinance of secession, and Georgia has long cherished her Confederate history and the great leaders who made sacrifices on her behalf; and

WHEREAS: Among those who served the Confederacy were many women who saw action in the Confederate Army disguised as men, participated in the manufacture of products for the war effort, provided military assistance and relief efforts and served in "soapsuds brigades," cleaning the clothes of military units; and

WHEREAS: One of the greatest examples of courage and fortitude by women of Georgia include the Nancy Harts, who saved the city of LaGrange in 1865. Forming a militia unit to protect their town, the women of LaGrange drilled, marched and practiced shooting in preparation for the Union arrival. Seeing these women armed and ready, the Union commander negotiated with the women and LaGrange was spared, whereupon the women prepared a meal for the Union officers who spared their town; and

WHEREAS: Confederate General Robert E. Lee, desiring the deep wounds of war to heal, said, "I think it is the duty of every citizen, in the present condition of the country, to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace and harmony;" and

WHEREAS: Georgia has four National Park Service sites and 15 museums and historical sites related to the Civil War, including Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Kennesaw Mountain National Battle Park and Andersonville National Historic Site; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2003 as **CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH** and April 26, 2003, as **CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY** in Georgia and encourage our citizens to observe this occasion with appropriate ceremonies.

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