

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND HONOR

WHEREAS: In 1883 more than 17,000 Cherokee Indians were removed from their homeland and forced to move to Indian Territory, which today is the state of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS: This removal is known as the "Trail of Tears," and marked one of the saddest episodes in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS: It is estimated that approximately 4000 Cherokee Indians died as a result of this removal from hunger, exposure and disease; and

WHEREAS: Georgians gather to remember and honor those who were removed from this land and to promote understanding between the descendents of those removed and the present residents; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 8, 2003, as a DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND HONOR in tribute to those who were removed from this land and traveled the "Trail of Tears." May we remember and honor the lives of those who suffered this historic tragedy.

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