

DODGE TOUR DE GEORGIA WEEK

WHEREAS: Cycling ranks as one of the top three participation sports in our nation and epitomizes a healthy, active lifestyle; and

WHEREAS: The Dodge Tour de Georgia, officially sanctioned by the International Cycling Union and USA Cycling, is the largest stage race in the United States, bringing 18 teams of elite American and international cyclists to Georgia for a six-day professional stage race benefiting the Georgia Cancer Coalition and our statewide economy; and

WHEREAS: The 2003 route will cover almost 600 miles in Georgia, from the coastal city of Savannah to the riverfronts of Augusta and Columbus and the historic heartland of Macon, and from the scenic mountains of Rome, Dalton and Gainesville to downtown Atlanta; and

WHEREAS: Thousands of spectators in the start and finish cities, as well as, the numerous small towns along the route, will be able to view national and world champions, Olympians and Tour de France riders among the 18 professional cycling teams from the United States, Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands; and

WHEREAS: Related recreational bike rides and special events, such as a NASCAR demonstration, health screenings, a lifestyle expo and children's programs, will be conducted to benefit the Georgia Cancer Coalition; and

WHEREAS: Dodge Tour de Georgia will raise funds and promote the objectives of the Georgia Cancer Coalition, a public-private partnership dedicated to cancer research, education, prevention, early detection and treatment; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 22-27, 2003, as DODGE TOUR DE GEORGIA WEEK and encourage our citizens to participate in the events, festivals and race day activities in cities across 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 April in the year of our Lord two thousand three.