

# **EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE WEEK**

WHEREAS: There is no doubt that America would not be the powerful beacon of freedom and democracy that it is today without the exceptional men and women who have served in our state militias and National Guard down through the years; and

WHEREAS: Our nation, born in battle, has survived and prospered because Americans have always been willing to defend what we hold dear as a nation, even at the cost of those we hold most dear as individuals; and

WHEREAS: Through their service, National Guard and Reserve personnel play an important role in our efforts to advance democracy, peace and freedom across our Nation and around the world. These dedicated men and women train vigorously and work closely with our active-duty forces, serving as equal partners in our integrated Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS: As we face new challenges and welcome new opportunities, the continued support of patriotic employers remains vital to the success of our National Guard and Reserve. Our volunteer National Guardsmen and Reservists rely on their employers for essential support and encouragement that often come at the employer's expense. These employers reflect the spirit of our Nation, and during this week I join with members of our Armed Forces and all our citizens in recognizing those who serve in our National Guard and Reserve and all who support them, and all Americans whose contributions and sacrifices help our military remain the finest fighting force in the world; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia National Guard and the Georgia Department of Defense continue to play a key role in the state's homeland defense efforts; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 16-23, 2003, as EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE WEEK throughout our state and further encourage all citizens to honor the heritage and contributions of the men and women of this distinguished organization.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 19th day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand three.