

FIREFIGHTERS RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION DAY

WHEREAS: Georgia's firefighters protect the life and property of our residents and visitors from fire and critical health threats through response to fire and medical emergencies; fire prevention, including code enforcement, building and other inspections; criminal and cause-and-origin investigation; and public fire safety education; and

WHEREAS: Firefighters also are responsible for responding to calls regarding building collapses, hazardous material incidents, vehicle accidents, water main breaks, utility emergencies and other non-fire emergencies; and

WHEREAS: Many of Georgia's firefighters extend their training to specialty areas and serve as members of HAZ-MAT, Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue or Swift Water Rescue teams, often aiding and supplementing other departments; and

WHEREAS: Firefighters bravely face possible injury and even death in the performance of their duties, working long and unusual hours to safeguard the lives and property of Georgia citizens; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 4, 2003, as **FIREFIGHTERS RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION DAY** in Georgia and call upon our citizens to pay special tribute to the firefighters and fire departments that contribute to the safety and well-being of our state.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 4th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand three.