

GYNECOLOGIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Over 82,000 women will be diagnosed this year with a gynecologic cancer, the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells originating in the female reproductive organs that can result in ovarian, endometrial (uterine), cervical or breast cancer; and

WHEREAS: Biomedical research has discovered that some genes, called oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes, promote the growth of cancer. These genetic mutations can be acquired during life through smoking, aging or environmental influences or can be inherited from parents or grandparents; and

WHEREAS: Diet, exercise and lifestyle choices can be a significant factor in the prevention of cancer. Also, knowing family history can increase a woman's chances of early diagnosis and taking steps toward prevention. Screenings and self-examinations, conducted regularly, can result in the detection of certain types of cancers in their earliest stages, when treatment is more likely to be successful; and

WHEREAS: All women are urged to take control of their gynecological health and their lives by incorporating early detection and prevention techniques into their regular health routine; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2003 as GYNECOLOGIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia and urge all Georgians to learn more about these deadly diseases.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 20th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand three.