

HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK

WHEREAS: As a Nation, we cherish the values of free speech, equal justice and religious tolerance, and we steadfastly oppose the forces of cruelty, injustice and tyranny. Since the founding of our country, the Bill of Rights has served to guide our people and our Government to ensure basic human rights and liberties. The United States is a country where all citizens have the opportunity to voice their opinions, practice their faith, and enjoy the blessings of freedom; and

WHEREAS: We recognize the “inherent dignity” of mankind and “the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world;” and

WHEREAS: Across the globe, we will continue to stand with those who fight for fundamental freedoms, whether they be democracy activists in Cuba, university faculty and students in Iran, opposition leaders in Zimbabwe, journalists in Belarus or the people of North Korea who have never known freedom; and

WHEREAS: Georgians hold dear the freedoms and privileges of democracy and realize the responsibility to support human rights around the globe; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim December 7-13, 2003, as HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK in Georgia and encourage our citizens to celebrate with appropriate activities, ceremonies and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this first day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand three.