

YELLOW RIBBON DAY

WHEREAS: The many brave women and men of our Armed Forces -- from here in Georgia and from across our nation -- have willingly gone forth into harm's way to preserve American freedom, ensure our safety and liberate an entire nation from tyranny; and

WHEREAS: We recognize the great sacrifice that these men and women and their families are making on our behalf, and we especially honor and remember those who have been captured in this war, including--Georgia's Ronald D. Young, Jr., who is among the unknown number of POW heroes--and we especially honor and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in this war, including -- Georgia's Jamaal R. Addison and Diego F. Rincón who are among the unknown number of heroes killed in action; and

WHEREAS: As we honor these soldiers, we also honor and remember those from past conflicts in our nation's history. It is because of these individuals -- those fighting now and their fellow soldiers before them -- that today we live in a nation that is strong and free; and

WHEREAS: The people of Georgia stand united behind our President and our military forces, and we join together in prayer for our men and women deployed overseas and for peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS: The words of Penne Laingen, one of the first Americans to express support for our troops by displaying a yellow ribbon, still ring true today: "I'm standing and waiting and praying . . . and one of these days, Bruce is going to untie that yellow ribbon. It's going to be out there until he does;" and

WHEREAS: We stand here today, waiting and praying for the safe return of our men and women; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 4, 2003, as YELLOW RIBBON DAY in Georgia and urge Georgians of all faiths and religions to offer a prayer for the safety of our troops--that they will return home safely to their families. I further urge all Georgians to show their support for our men and women of the military, their families and our nation, by displaying a yellow ribbon at their home or business and by wearing a yellow ribbon.

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