

CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS: April is the month in which the Confederate States of America began a four-year conflict in the Civil War. Confederate Memorial Day on April 26 is a time when Georgians honor the more than 90,000 brave men and women who served the Confederate States of America. Georgia joined the Confederacy in January 1861 when a convention ratified the ordinance of secession, and Georgia has long cherished her Confederate history and the great leaders who made sacrifices on her behalf; and

WHEREAS: Among those who served the Confederacy were many Jews who saw action in the Confederate armed forces as well as in governmental service. Most notably, Judah P. Benjamin held three cabinet positions in the Confederate States Government and was the first Jewish person to hold a cabinet position in North America. Two other individuals who made a significant contribution to Georgia were Phoebe Yates Levy Pember of Cobb County and Charles Wessolowsky of Washington County; and

WHEREAS: In 1862, Phoebe Pember was appointed Chief Matron of Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, which at the time was the largest military hospital in the world. Operating in this atmosphere of misery and despair, she dedicated herself to doing everything possible to relieve the suffering of the soldiers, administering medication, assisting surgeons in operation, patching wounds and caring for patients. Often, she served simply as a final companion to the dying – writing letters, reading stories, playing cards, holding hands, praying and talking. She continued her duties until well after the war was over. She wrote about her experience in a book, *A Southern Woman's Story*; and

WHEREAS: Charles Wessolowsky emigrated from Prussia and settled in Sandersville. He served as a Sergeant Major in Co. E, 32nd Regiment Georgia Infantry. After the war, he moved to Albany where he served as city alderman, Clerk of Superior Court, a two year term in the Georgia House and a one year term in the Georgia Senate. He also worked as the associate editor of *The Jewish Voice*, which promoted pride, unity, and conciliation. He served as Grand High Priest of Georgia in the Masonic Order; and

WHEREAS: It is important that Georgians reflect upon our state's past and honor and respect the devotion of her Confederate leaders, soldiers and citizens; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2009 as CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH and April 26, 2009, as CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to observe this occasion with appropriate ceremonies.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 11th day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand eight.