

## AIDS AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS: Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which progressively destroys the body's ability to fight infections and certain cancers by killing or damaging cells of the body's immune system. HIV/AIDS has developed into one of the greatest health crises of our time; and
- WHEREAS: The CDC estimates that over one million people are living with HIV/AIDS in the United States alone. Estimates of worldwide numbers range as high as 42 million people; and
- WHEREAS: Combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic requires hard work, research and help for patients and families. Raising awareness about HIV and AIDS will help garner care, treatment and support for those in need; and
- WHEREAS: The 2005 observance of World AIDS Day in Georgia provides an opportunity for Georgians to join together with church and community leaders, teachers and patients to renew our commitment to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, developing and delivering more effective treatments and finding a cure; now
- THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2005, as AIDS AWARENESS DAY in Georgia. I encourage the people of Georgia to join me in remembering those who have lost their lives to this disease and to provide comfort and support for those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand five.