

DONOR DAY

WHEREAS: No gift we can give is more precious than the gift of life. Today we are honoring organ, eye and tissue donors and their families who have given others a second chance at life; and

WHEREAS: President Bush has proclaimed April as National Donate Life Month, citing the growing needs of nearly 87,000 Americans on the national organ transplant waiting list. Here in our state, more than 1,600 people are waiting for organ transplants; and

WHEREAS: Georgians are responding to the need. Last year, 111 Georgians became living organ donors. And deceased organ donation reached its highest rate in 5 years. Organ donations have saved nearly a quarter million lives since 1988; and

WHEREAS: After a person decides to be a donor, one of the most important things he or she needs to do is talk with family members about this decision. Many opportunities are missed each year because families do not know what their loved ones wanted. During Donor Day, we honor our organ, eye, and tissue donors and their families. Their decision to share the gift of life through donor programs serves as a positive example for all our citizens; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 4, 2005, as DONOR DAY in Georgia and urge our citizens to give the gift of life by becoming donors and by discussing their wishes with their families.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 4th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand five.