

FRANCOPHONIE DAY

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia and the French-speaking world, known as La Francophonie, enjoy an enduring relationship and share important commercial, cultural and academic linkages; and

WHEREAS: Georgia is home to thousands of French-speaking people from Europe, Africa, Asia, North America and the Caribbean and is a key location for hundreds of Francophone corporations as well as Francophone consulates, trade offices, chambers of commerce and a major cultural centre called the Alliance Française; and

WHEREAS: The strong relationship between the State of Georgia and French-speaking nations and regions of the world has brought economic growth and enhanced the lives of the citizens of our state as well as the citizens of these countries; and

WHEREAS: French is the first language of over 105 million people worldwide, and throughout the world, an additional 82 million people are learning to speak French; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia takes pride and pleasure in joining the Francophone community in a celebration of its French heritage, and commends La Francophonie for actively promoting peace, democracy and human rights throughout the world, especially those who have chosen to defend the innocent from terrorists; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 20, 2005, as FRANCOPHONIE DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 17th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand five.