

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

WHEREAS: President Ronald W. Reagan first declared "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" in 1981 to focus our nation's attention on the plight of crime victims, to reflect on the devastating impact of crime on victims and to strengthen our national resolve to ensure that victims' needs are identified and addressed; and

WHEREAS: Since 1981, the crime victim assistance field has expanded from a handful of assistance programs to include over 10,000 programs and 32,000 federal and state statutes that define and protect victims' rights; and

WHEREAS: Crucial partnerships have been formed in Georgia among the criminal and juvenile justice systems, victim services providers and non-profit organizations who are dedicated to serving and helping Georgia's crime victims. These entities ensure that our crime victims are treated with dignity, respect and compassion and afford them with the opportunity to begin the healing process and attempt to move forward with their lives; and

WHEREAS: Since 1991 in Georgia, \$40.2 million has been paid by the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program to victims of crime. The Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program holds criminals responsible for the financial impact of their actions; and

WHEREAS: All Georgians are asked to remember the victims who have suffered at the hands of criminals in this state and to support those who selflessly provide assistance and service to crime victims as we help make our homes, neighborhoods and communities stronger, safer and more secure; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 10 – 16, 2005, as GEORGIA CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK and encourage every community to embrace the cause of victims' rights and services.

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