

# FORD TOUR DE GEORGIA

WHEREAS: Cycling ranks as one of the top three participation sports in our nation; it epitomizes a healthy active lifestyle; and

WHEREAS: The Ford Tour de Georgia, officially sanctioned by the International Cycling Union and USA Cycling, is the largest stage race in the United States. It brings 16 teams of elite American and international cyclists to Georgia for a six-day professional stage race benefiting the Georgia Cancer Coalition in its "Race to Defeat Cancer;" and

WHEREAS: The 2006 route will cover over 600 miles in Georgia, from the historic heartland of Augusta and Macon to Fayetteville and the scenic mountains of Rome, Chickamauga, and up to Chattanooga, Tennessee—the first time the Tour de Georgia has ventured across state borders. Then it's on to Dalton, Dahlonega, Brasstown Bald and Blairsville, with the sixth and final stage in downtown Alpharetta; and

WHEREAS: Hundreds of thousands of spectators in the start/finish cities as well as the numerous small towns along the route will be able to view national and world champions, Olympians and Tour de France riders among the 16 professional cycling teams from all across the globe; and

WHEREAS: Ford Tour de Georgia will raise funds and actively promote the objectives of the Georgia Cancer Coalition, a public-private partnership that is fast becoming a national model dedicated to research, education, prevention, early detection and treatment; and

WHEREAS: Ford Tour de Georgia will include a variety of community celebrations and activities, such as the Healthy Georgia Expo, intended to spread the Georgia Cancer Coalition's message of cancer prevention, awareness and treatment; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 18–23, 2006, as FORD TOUR DE GEORGIA WEEK in Georgia and encourage our citizens to participate in the events, festivals and race day activities in cities across Georgia.

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