

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

WHEREAS: Hundreds of innocent Georgia citizens become victims of crime each day. One violent crime occurs in Georgia every 11 minutes. Past years have seen approximately 40,000 violent crimes committed in Georgia. Behind each of these tragic statistics is an individual whose rights have been violated, whose life has been taken or irrevocably changed, and whose family, friends and community have been touched by the shadows of fear and violence; and

WHEREAS: Crucial partnerships have been formed in Georgia among the criminal and juvenile justice systems, victim services providers and non-profit organizations who have dedicated their lives 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: All Georgians are asked to remember the victims who have suffered at the hands of criminals in this state. Victims in this state, including the most vulnerable in our society, are touched by violent crime every day: the children who are physically, mentally and sexually abused; the elderly who fall prey to violent criminals; those who have lost their lives to family violence; the victims who have suffered the physical and mental violations of rape and sexual assault; the family members whose loved ones have been violently taken away by the criminal actions of drunken drivers; and the numerous other individuals whose lives have been devastated by violent crime. All Georgians are encouraged to support those who selflessly provide assistance and service to crime victims; now

THEREFORE: I, Sonny Perdue, Governor of the State of Georgia, proclaim the week of April 6-12, 2003, as CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK in Georgia. This is a new day in Georgia for crime victims, and their plea for justice will not fall on deaf ears. I urge all Georgia citizens to take time out to recognize and commemorate this week as we fulfill our promise to innocent crime victims and let it be known that Georgians will not tolerate criminal harm to the citizens of this great state.

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 three.