

## CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY

WHEREAS: The religious communities and houses of worship in our state represent people from a multitude of faiths, each providing comfort, hope and support to those seeking God's direction for their lives; and

WHEREAS: For each house of worship, a minister guides his flock, like the shepherd his sheep, through prayer—his own supplication to God for direction and the faithful prayers of those under his leadership; and

WHEREAS: It is always appropriate to express our appreciation to those who faithfully serve God and His people as dedicated and honorable ministers in their communities, often neglecting their own personal needs to give us guidance and comfort, in good times and in trials; and

WHEREAS: In his letter to the church at Thessalonica, Paul instructed the people "to know them who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." These wise words apply to all faiths as it is incumbent upon us, as lay members, to lift our ministers in prayer and to express our love and gratitude for their service; and

WHEREAS: On April 8, 2003, we publicly affirm our love and appreciation for the men and women who are called by God to lead His people; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 8, 2003, as CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to say thank you to the men and women who are led to serve our communities as servants of God.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 8th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand three.